THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA

14

ART BY GAKU TSUGANO

STORY BY NAGARU TANIGAWA

CHARACTERS BY: NOIZI ITO

Kadokawa Comics A

THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA 14

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Guided only by a series of notes that direct him to do the most inexplicable things—Buy a small turtle and throw it into the lake?—Kyon and the Mikuru from eight days in the future complete these assigned tasks hoping that things will become clear as the SOS Brigade's adventures for that week continue. But Kyon and Mikuru's scavenger hunt soon becomes a manhunt when Mikuru is kidnapped by a rogue group of espers, time travelers, and aliens!

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OLDER TEEN OT LSV

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YES, IT MUST BE.
OH, NAGATO-SAN...
COULD NAGATO'S APPEAR-ANCE HERE BE OUR SALVATION?

THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA

ORIGINAL STORY NAGARU TANIGAWA

MANGA GAKU TSUGANO

CHARACTER DESIGN: NOIZI ITO

14

CONTENTS

◎ The Intrigues of Haruhi Suzumiya II 001
◎ The Intrigues of Haruhi Suzumiya III 039
◎ The Intrigues of Haruhi Suzumiya IV 071
◎ The Intrigues of Haruhi Suzumiya V 103
◎ The Intrigues of Haruhi Suzumiya VI 137

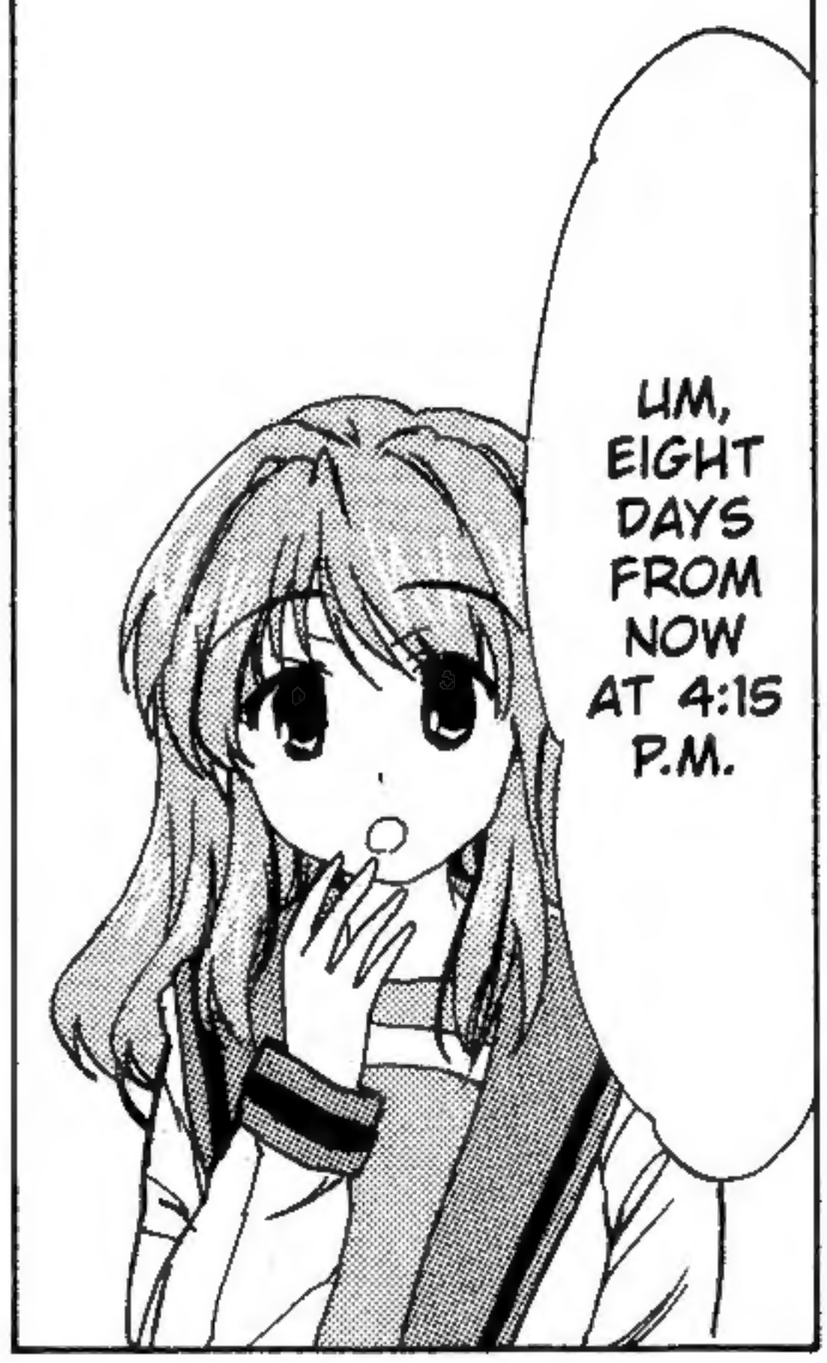
WE NEED TO TALK. COME WITH ME.
I'LL PUT SOME TEA ON RIGHT AWAY!
UM...IS SOME-THING WRONG?
HUH?

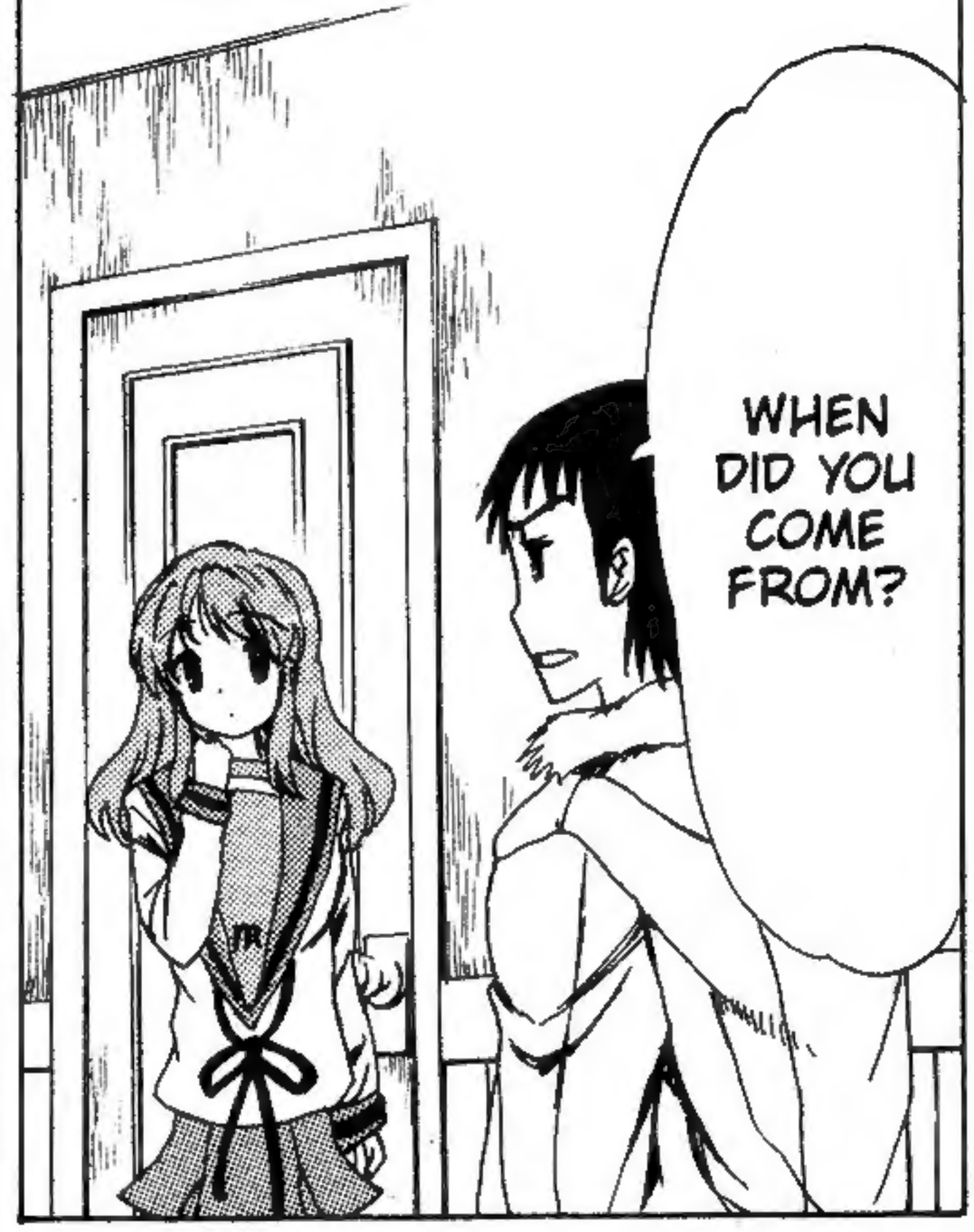
BA (BURST)
FUWAAH!
BAN (SLAM)

OH, YES!
SO ASAHINA-SAN, ABOUT WHAT YOU WERE SAYING...
I OWE YOU ONE, NAGATO.

I HAVE NO MEMORY OF SAYING ANY-THING LIKE THAT.
WHICH MEANS ...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO COME THIS TIME!
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

FOR WHAT REA-SON?
I DON'T KNOW.


UM, EIGHT DAYS FROM NOW AT 4:15 P.M.


WHEN DID YOU COME FROM?

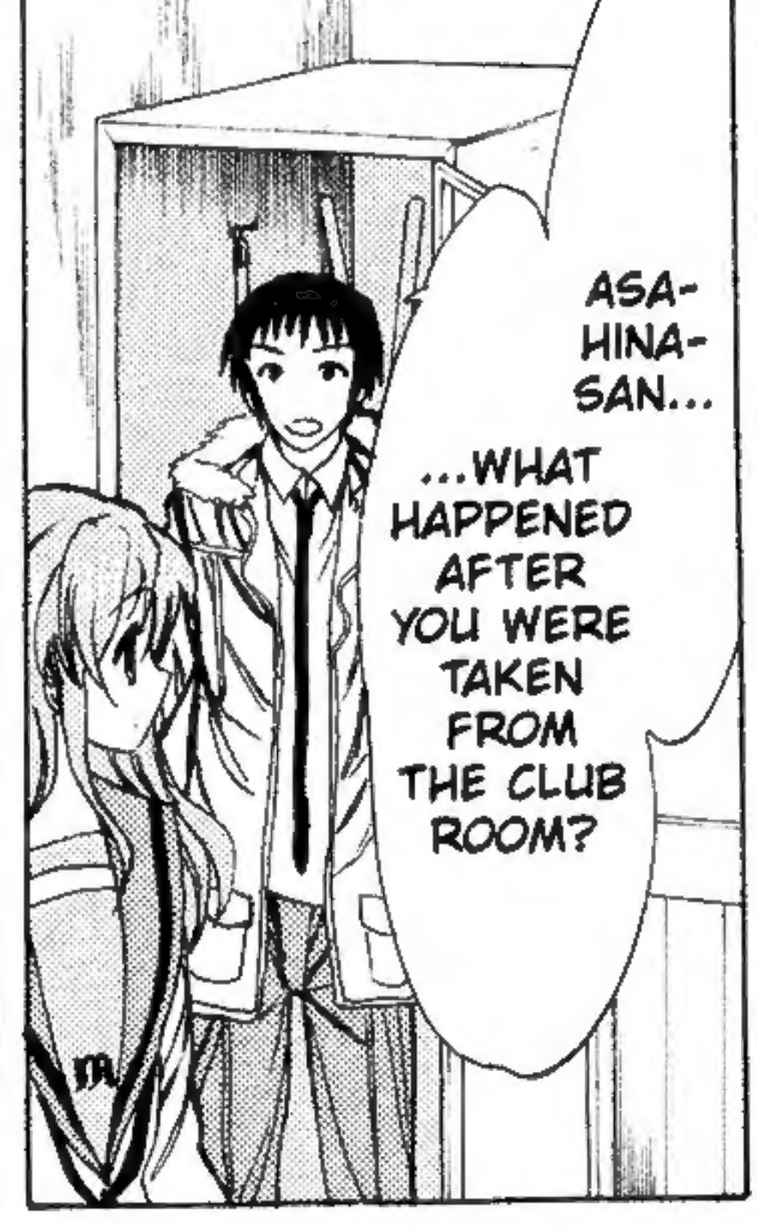
WHY ARE YOUR REQUESTS ALWAYS APPROVED SO QUICKLY?
I WANT TO ASK YOU SOME-THING, KYON...

I REALLY DON'T KNOW.
I JUST DID WHAT YOU TOLD ME TO DO.

YOU TOLD ME TO SAY "HI" TO YOUR PAST SELF.

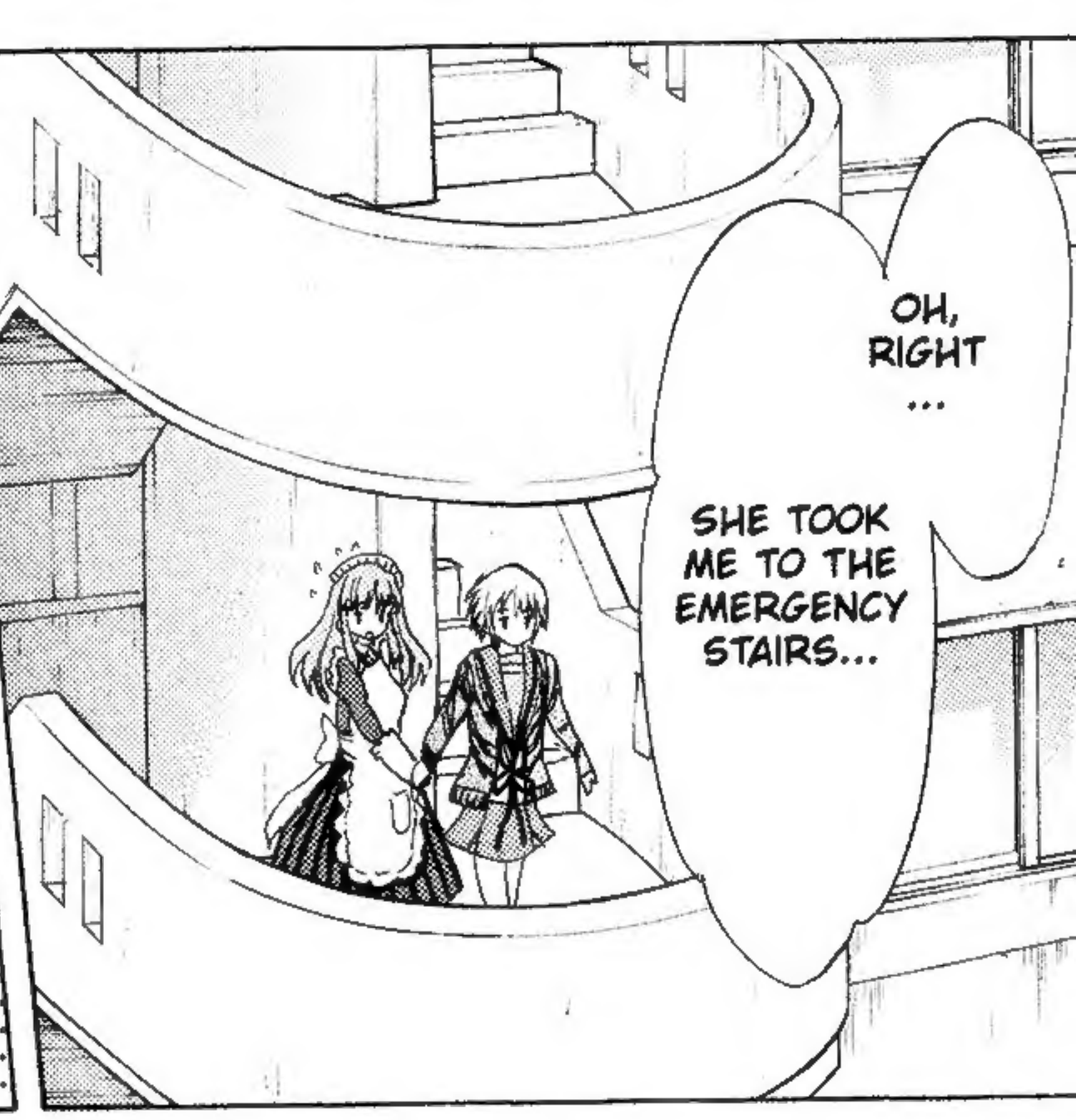
YOU SEEMED NERVOUS AND TOLD ME I'D UNDER-STAND IF I WENT.
YES.
MY EIGHT-DAYS-LATER SELF TOLD YOU TO...?

HUH?
...SO WHAT HAPPENED AFTER NAGATO TOOK YOU AWAY?
FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW, IT HAPPENED EIGHT DAYS AGO...


ASAHINA-SAN...
...WHAT HAPPENED AFTER YOU WERE TAKEN FROM THE CLUB ROOM?

はっ
HA (GASP)
I DON'T GET IT.
MY EIGHT-DAYS-IN-THE-FUTURE SELF ...?

HOW CAN NUMBER THEORY BE USED TO PROVE THE EXISTENCE OF GOD? HOW WOULD ONE CONCEPTUALLY REFUTE THAT?
UMM...
...AND ASKED ME ALL SORTS OF STRANGE THINGS.


OH, RIGHT ...
SHE TOOK ME TO THE EMERGENCY STAIRS...

HUH?
NO, I DIDN'T...
OH!

...DID YOU EVER MEET YOUR OTHER SELF?
DURING THIS WEEK ...

TA (DASH)

ARE YOU SURE IT WAS EIGHT DAYS FROM NOW?

NAGATO MANAGED TO BUY ME SOME TIME, SO...

...I CAN'T LET THE TWO ASAHINAS BUMP INTO EACH OTHER.

BA (SLAM)

HFF!

THEN WAS THERE SOME INCIDENT THAT WOULD HAVE REQUIRED YOU TO TRAVEL INTO THE PAST?

TA

YOU TOLD ME TO GO EIGHT DAYS BACK, TO 3:45 PM.

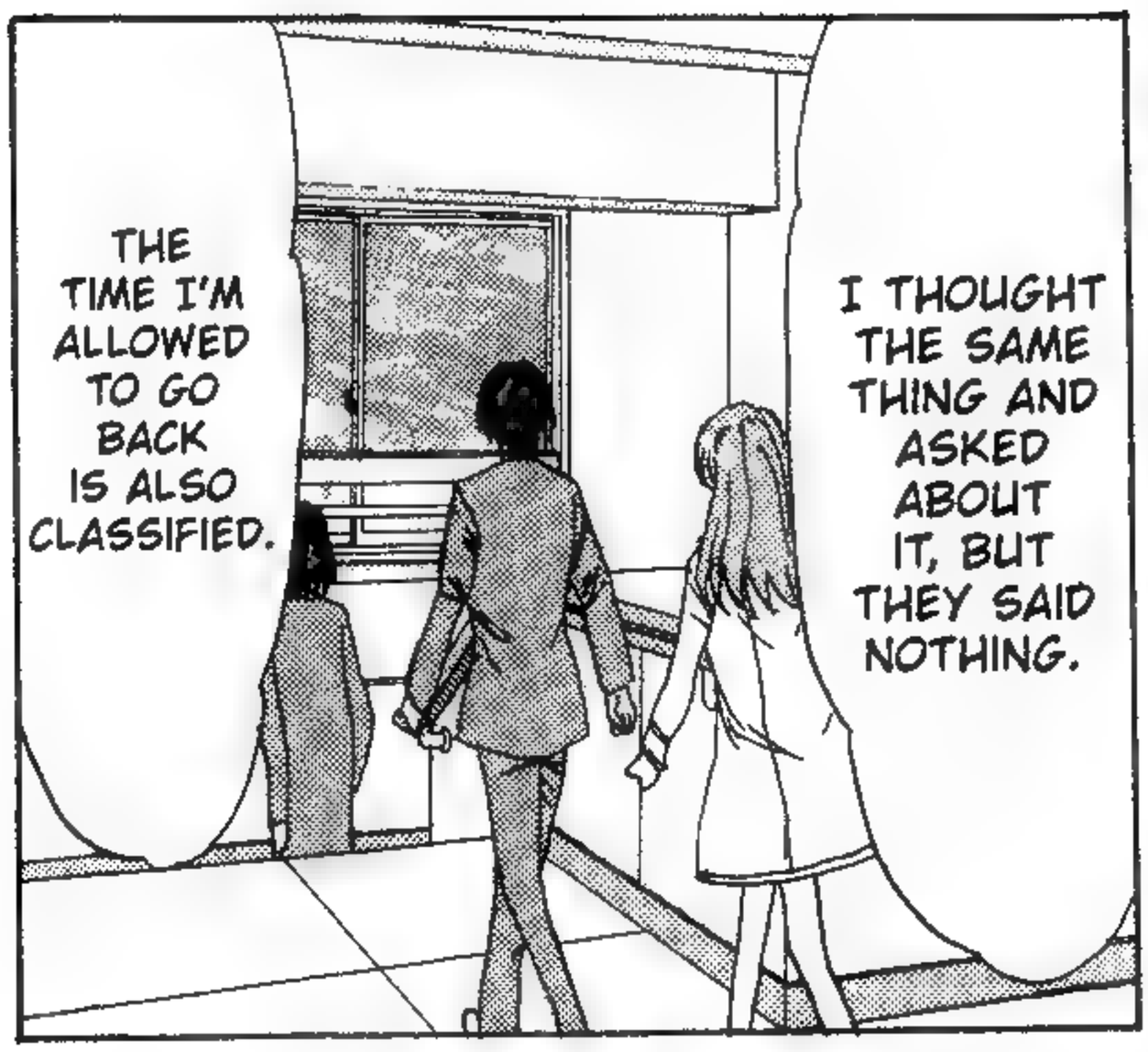
YES.

TA

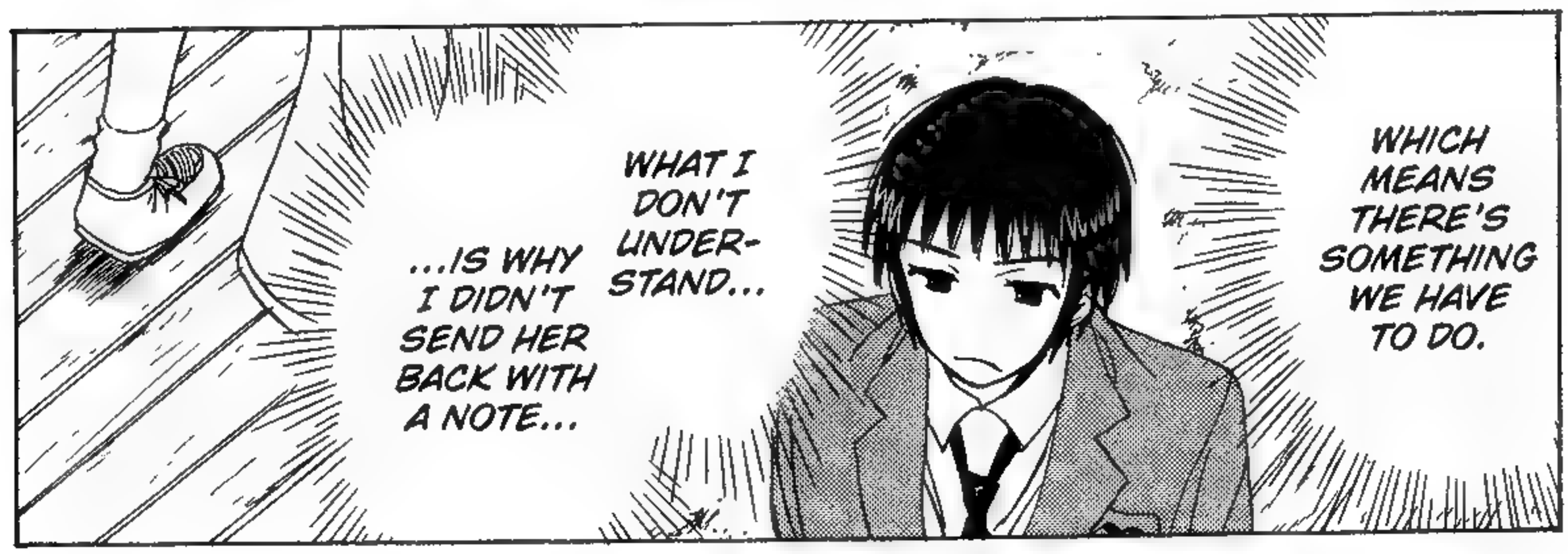
HFF!

YOU JUST DRAGGED ME OVER TO THAT BROOM CLOSET AND PUSHED ME IN.

I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING LIKE THAT.


THE TIME I'M ALLOWED TO GO BACK IS ALSO CLASSIFIED.
I THOUGHT THE SAME THING AND ASKED ABOUT IT, BUT THEY SAID NOTHING.

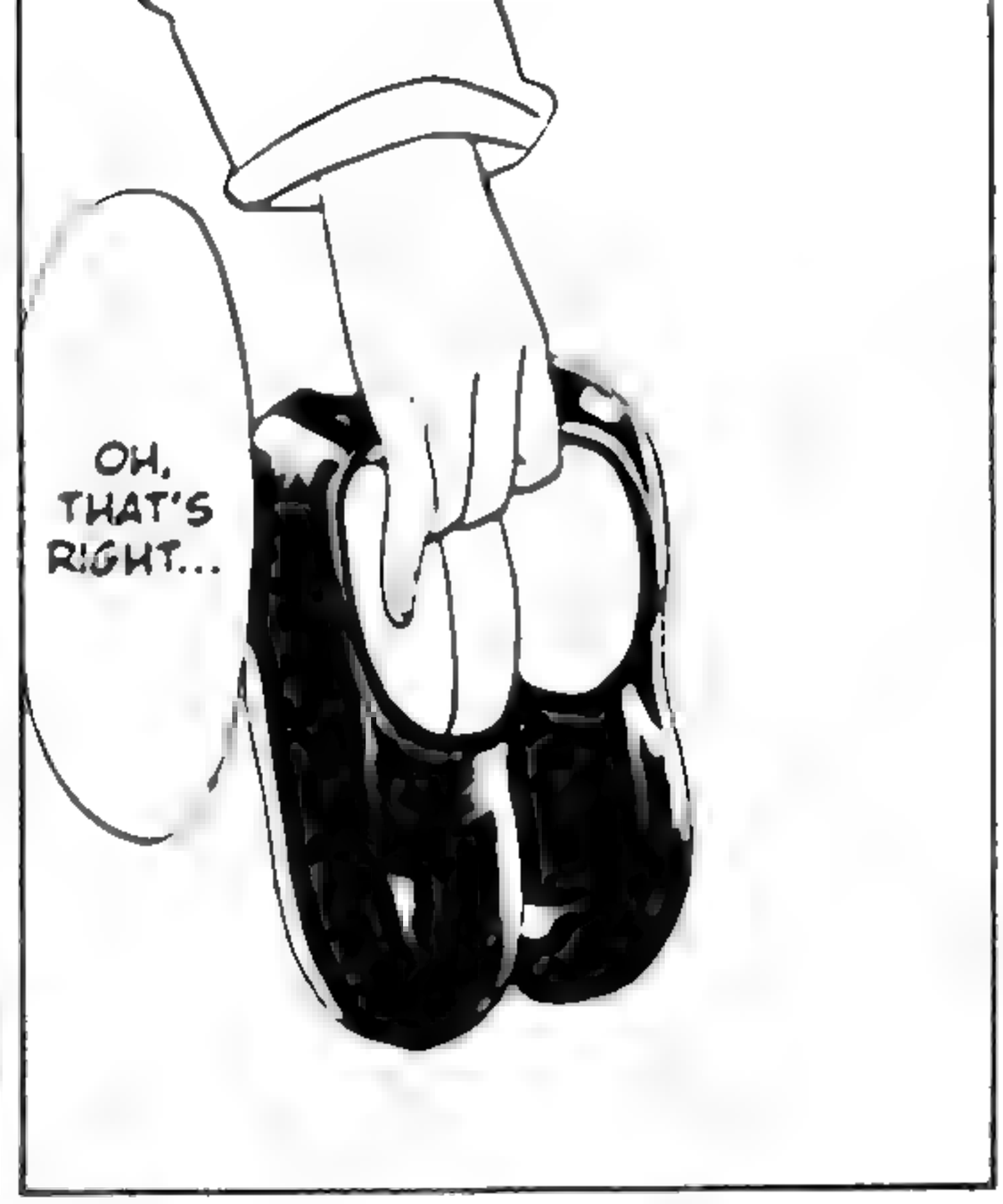
SO WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO DO?
JUST DO NOTHING AND WAIT EIGHT DAYS?


...IS WHY I DIDN'T SEND HER BACK WITH A NOTE...
WHAT I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
WHICH MEANS THERE'S SOMETHING WE HAVE TO DO.

THOSE SHOES BELONG TO YOUR PAST SELF!

ASA-HINA-SAN!
Y-YES?

AND I DON'T REMEMBER LOSING MY SHOES ...
I'D BE MAKING IT HARD FOR MY OTHER SELF TO GET HOME.


OH, THAT'S RIGHT...

RIGHT NOW I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT "WHERE" THAN "HOW."
GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE HER WALK HOME IN HER SCHOOL SLIPPERS.

GOOD OLD ASAHINA-SAN, ALWAYS PREPARED.
HAVEN'T SEEN A MESSAGE LIKE THIS IN QUITE A WHILE.

HOW DEPRESSING.

CAUSING YOU TROUBLE AGAIN, I...

I'M SORRY.

IT'S GUARANTEED TO PUT HARUHI IN A BAD MOOD, AND WHO KNOWS WHAT PUNISHMENT SHE'LL...

SKIPPING CLUB— NO, BRIGADE ACTIVI-TIES— IS ALWAYS TERRIFY-ING.

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THE MIKURU ASAHINA BESIDE YOU.

BUT I WONDER WHAT THIS ALL MEANS...

MY FUTURE SELF'S TO BLAME HERE.

NO, NOT AT ALL.

I WAS THE ONE WHO SENT YOU HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

SHE'S DEFINITELY BEHIND THIS.

I'M SURE SHE SENT THE NOTE.

ASAHINA-SAN DOESN'T SEEM TO REALIZE HER FUTURE SELF WROTE THIS.

AND IT'S NOT JUST ASAHINA.

THE RATE AT WHICH HARUHI'S CREATING CLOSED SPACE IS DECREASING TOO.

NAGATO SEEMS LIKE SHE'S BECOMING LESS ALIEN.

EVEN KOIZUMI SEEMS DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MR. LIEU-TENANT BRIGADE CHIEF?

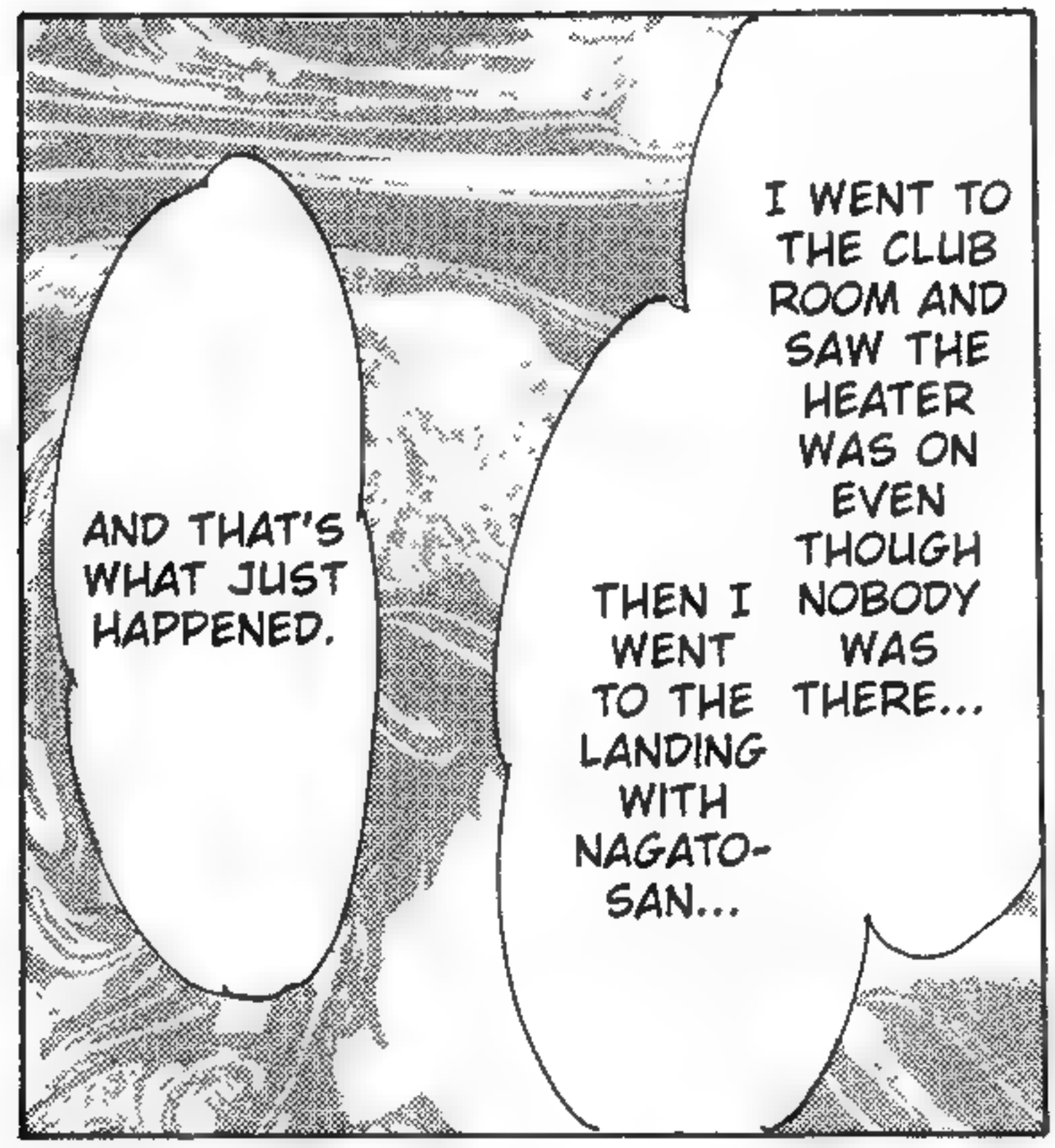
IT'S LIKE SHE KNOWS IT'S COME TRUE.
IF THERE ARE ANY ALIENS, TIME TRAVELERS, OR ESPERS, COME SEE ME!
I WANT TO BELIEVE THIS IS ALL A SIGN OF HER GROWTH AS A PERSON.
HAVE I GROWN MYSELF? NO IDEA.

E-EXCUSE ME.
OH, WHERE'S HARU-NYAN?

HEY, IT'S MIKURU-CHAN!

NOW THEN ...
WHERE'S YUKI? WHERE'S KOIZUMI-KUN? WHERE'S TSURUYA-SAN?
TELL ME ABOUT THE WEEK.

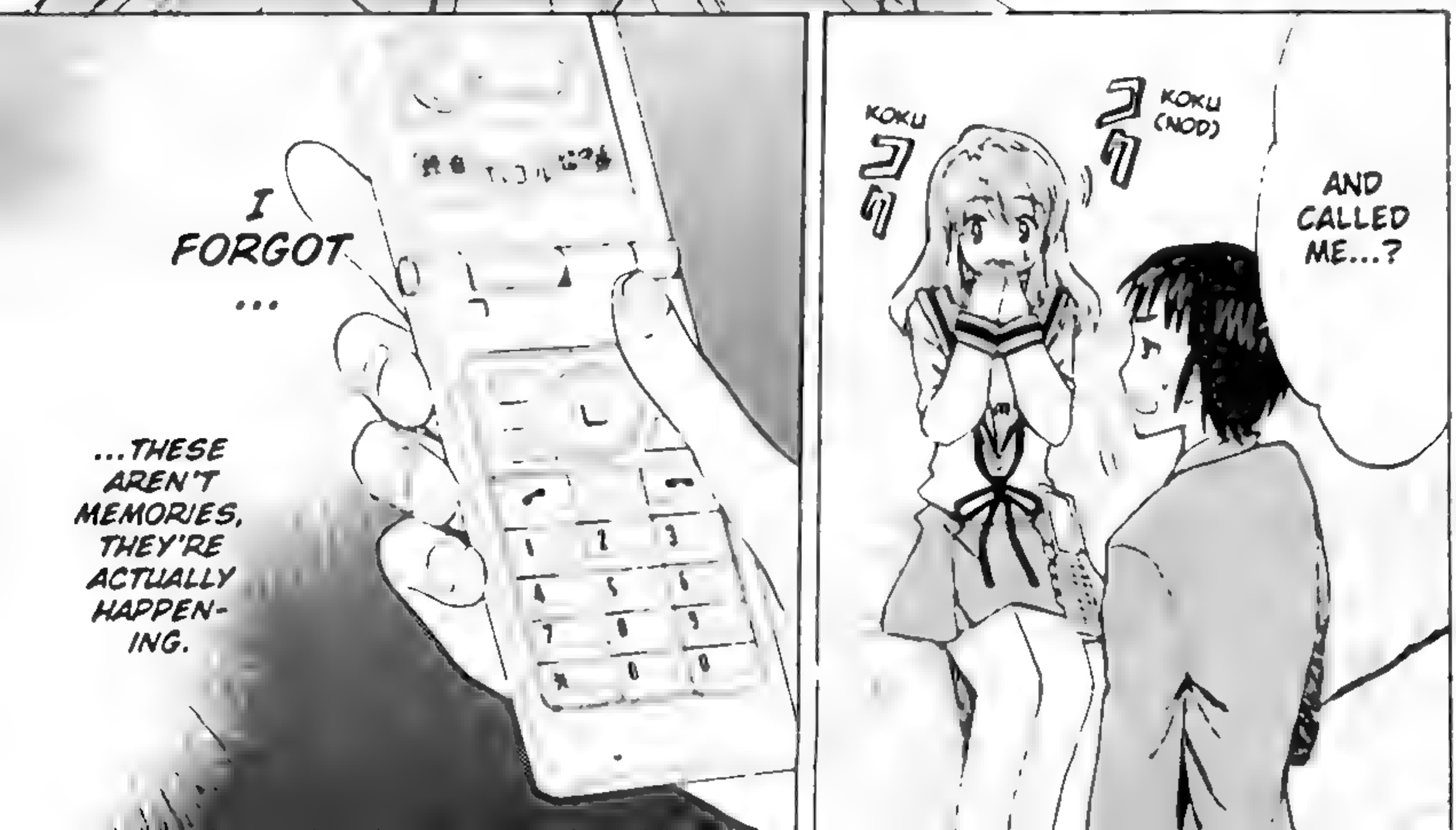
BAN (SLAM)
IS THIS A DATE?
HEY, HEY...


I WENT TO THE CLUB ROOM AND SAW THE HEATER WAS ON EVEN THOUGH NOBODY WAS THERE...
THEN I WENT TO THE LANDING WITH NAGATO-SAN...
AND THAT'S WHAT JUST HAPPENED.

WELL ... ... EIGHT DAYS AGO... THAT'S TODAY, I GUESS ...

...AND GLARED AT THE WINDOW. HER EYES WERE SCARY.
SHE SEEMED A LITTLE ANGRY...
MAYBE THIRTY MINUTES LATER, SUZUMIYA-SAN CAME.
WHEN I WENT BACK, YOUR BAG WASN'T THERE BUT KOIZUMI WAS.

HA (GASP)
SHE REALIZED YOU WEREN'T THERE, AND...

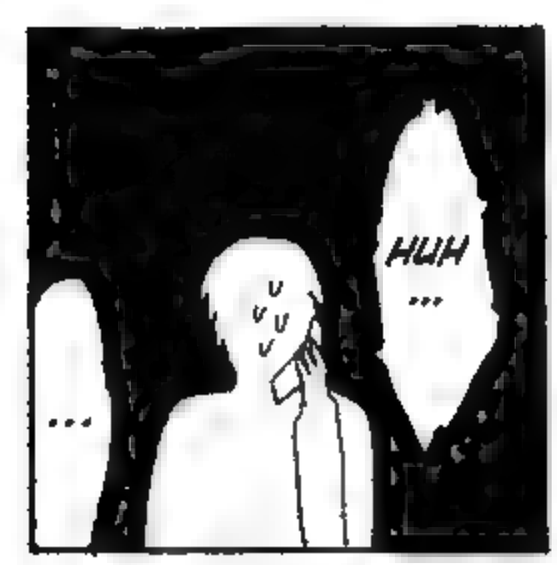

I FORGOT ...
...THESE AREN'T MEMORIES, THEY'RE ACTUALLY HAPPENING.
KOKU
KOKU (NOD)
AND CALLED ME...?

What, you're ditching?
...MY ROOM.

WHERE ARE YOU?

WELL ...
What do you mean, "something"?
SOMETHING CAME UP.

ALOPECIA AREATA. HAIR LOSS.
UH... UM...


...
HUH ...

OH YEAH? SICK WITH WHAT?

HAD TO TAKE HIM TO THE VET.
SHAMISEN GOT SICK.

NO, I'M NOT.
.....

ARE YOU WITH ANYONE?

UGH, SHE'S TOO SHARP.
...SO WHAT'D HARUHI DO NEXT?

SFX: GACHA (CLICK)
Tell Shamisen I said "Get well."
Bye.

CELL: CONNECTED, HARUHI SUZUMIYA
090XXXX
From your voice, I thought someone WAS there.
Oh yeah?

SUZUMIYA-SAN SEEMED SORT OF QUIET.
SHE JUST STAYED IN THE CLUB ROOM, READING A MAGAZINE ...

SHE WAS IN THE ROOM UNTIL AFTER FIVE ...
...AND THEN EVERY-BODY WENT HOME.

SUZUMIYA BROUGHT A TREASURE MAP ALONG, SO WE ALL WENT OUT DIGGING...

DIG-GING!?

UM, WE GO ON A TREASURE HUNT ON THE NEXT HOLIDAY.

HOW FAR AHEAD SHOULD I GO...?

EVEN ASAHINA WAS STARTING TO PICK UP ON HARUHI'S STRANGELY SUBDUED BEHAVIOR LATELY.

SO WHAT ABOUT TOMOR-ROW, OR THE DAY AFTER?

TSURUYA-SAN GAVE IT TO SUZUMIYA-SAN.

WHEN HER FAMILY WAS REMODELING THEIR HOUSE, THEY FOUND THIS MAP SOME ANCESTOR MADE...

IT WAS DRAWN IN INK AND REALLY OLD.

THE MOUNTAINS.

WHERE'D WE GO DIGGING?

NYAA (MEOW)

THAT TSURUYA-SAN... WE'RE GONNA PAY FOR THIS.

WHAT IS THIS, BEYOND THE PALE OF VENGEANCE?

SO? DID WE FIND ANY TREASURE?

I'M EXHAUSTED JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.

YOU CAN SEE IT FROM THE HILL ON THE WAY BACK FROM SCHOOL.

THERE'S A MOUNTAIN ON THE TSURUYA ESTATE.

...?

...I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED.

NO.

THERE WEREN'T ANY OLD TREASURE CHESTS BURIED ANYWHERE.

UM...

ALSO, THE DAY AFTER THAT...

SUCH POINT-LESS WASTED EFFORT.

I WAS GOING TO HAVE TO WASTE MY PRECIOUS DAY OFF LOOKING FOR A TREASURE I KNEW DIDN'T EXIST.

BUT MONDAY WAS A VACATION DAY TOO, SO...

IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S TWO STRAIGHT DAYS' WORTH OF STUFF TO DO.

...WE DID A CITY PATROL.

NO, ON SATUR-DAY, WE...

MORE DIG-GING?

NO.

IT WAS THE SAME AS ALWAYS. WE DRANK SOME TEA, ATE SOME LUNCH...

OH, RIGHT, MONDAY'S THE SPECIAL CLASS ENTRANCE EXAMS.

SO, DID YOU FIND ANYTHING MYSTE-RIOUS?

I REMEMBER IT PERFECTLY.

SINCE FOR ME, IT HAPPENED TODAY.

SO...

WHAT WAS THE SITUATION WHEN I TOLD YOU TO GO BACK IN TIME?

TIME FOR A DIFFERENT APPROACH.

GORONYAA (MEOWRRRL)

?

A LOTTERY, TO SPONSOR THE SOS BRIGADE.

WE WERE DOING A FUND-RAISER IN THE COURTYARD.

I WAS IN CHARGE OF HANDING OUT PRIZES.

THERE WERE A LOT OF PEOPLE, SO IT WAS KINDA SCARY...

HUH?

HOW DID YOU KNOW?

MEOW!

WERE YOU IN YOUR SHRINE MAIDEN OUTFIT, BY ANY CHANCE?

I HANDED OUT PRIZES TO THE WINNERS ...

...SHOOK THEIR HANDS, AND TOOK PHOTOS WITH THEM.

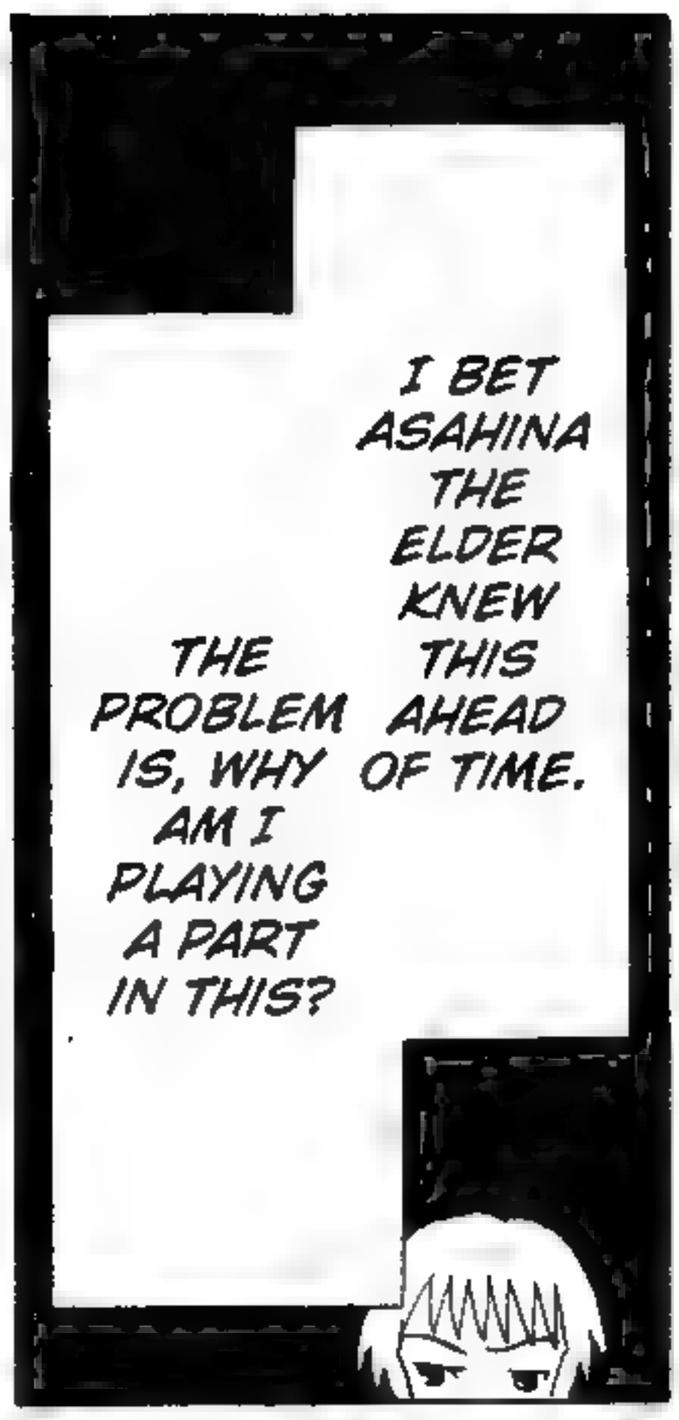
THEN YOU SUDDENLY TOOK MY HAND AND LED ME TO THE CLUB ROOM...

THEN YOU TOLD ME TO GET IN THE BROOM CLOSET...

...AND SAID YOU'D BE WAITING FOR ME, SO TO JUST DO WHAT YOU SAID.

YOU MADE ME CHANGE CLOTHES IN A HURRY...

I DIDN'T REALLY UNDER-STAND, BUT I DID IT.

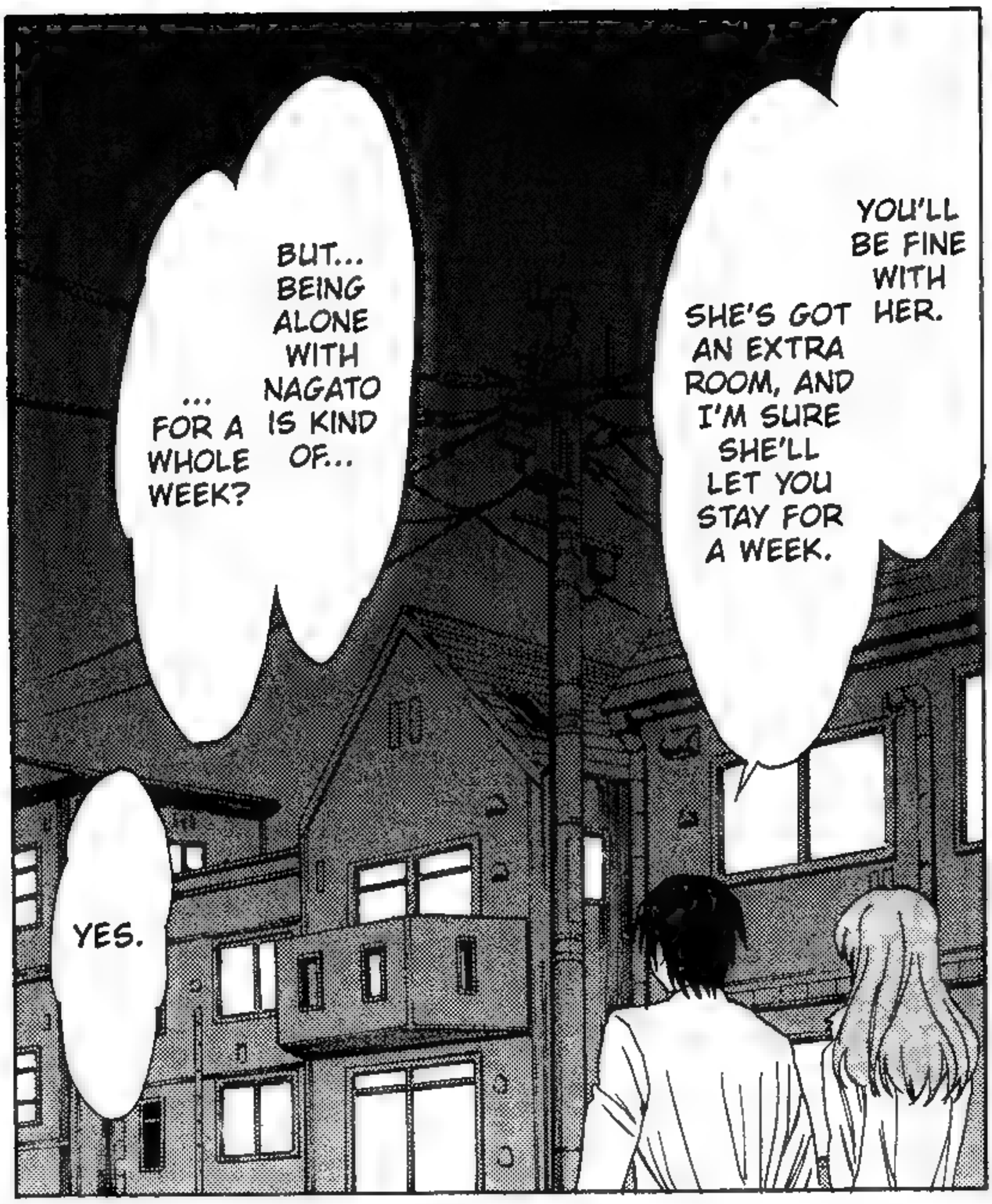

I BET ASAHINA THE ELDER KNEW THIS AHEAD OF TIME.
THE PROBLEM IS, WHY AM I PLAYING A PART IN THIS?

PERMISSION TO USE MY TPDD WAS GRANTED IMMEDIATELY.
IT WAS LIKE THEY WERE WAITING FOR MY REQUEST.

KON (KNOCK)
KON
KYON-KUN, OPEN UP!

I'M GLAD ASAHINA'S CHEERED UP A LITTLE...
NOW WHO CAN I COUNT ON...?

I BROUGHT CAKE!
WANT SOME, SHAMI?


... FOR A WHOLE WEEK?
BUT... BEING ALONE WITH NAGATO IS KIND OF...
YES.
YOU'LL BE FINE WITH HER.
SHE'S GOT AN EXTRA ROOM, AND I'M SURE SHE'LL LET YOU STAY FOR A WEEK.

WE'RE GOING TO NAGATO'S HOUSE?

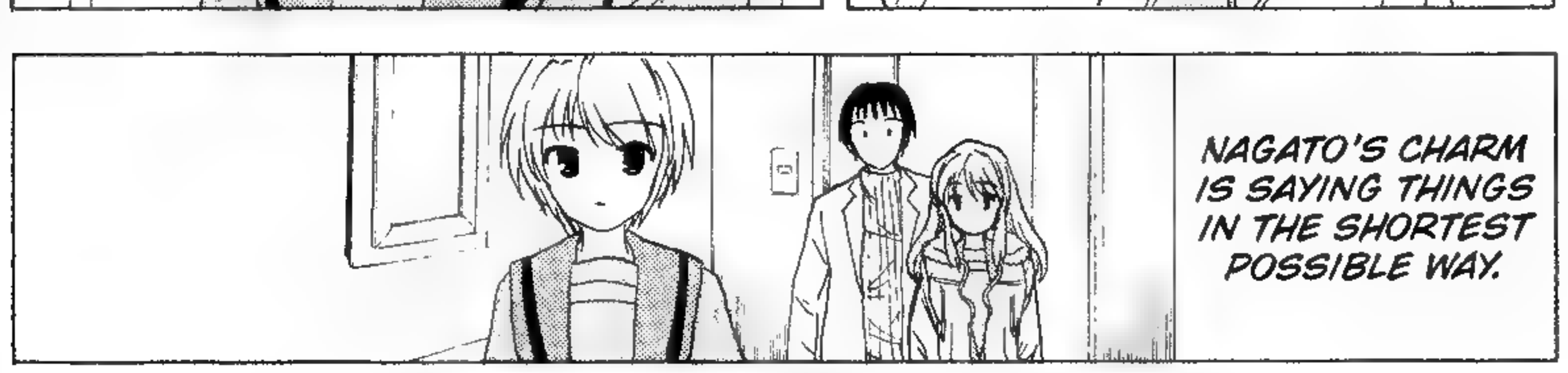
IF I TRIED TO HIDE YOU AT MY PLACE, WE'D BE IN TROUBLE IF HARUHI FOUND YOU.
AND THERE'S NO WAY TO TELL HOW KOIZUMI'S AGENCY WOULD TREAT A TIME TRAVELER.

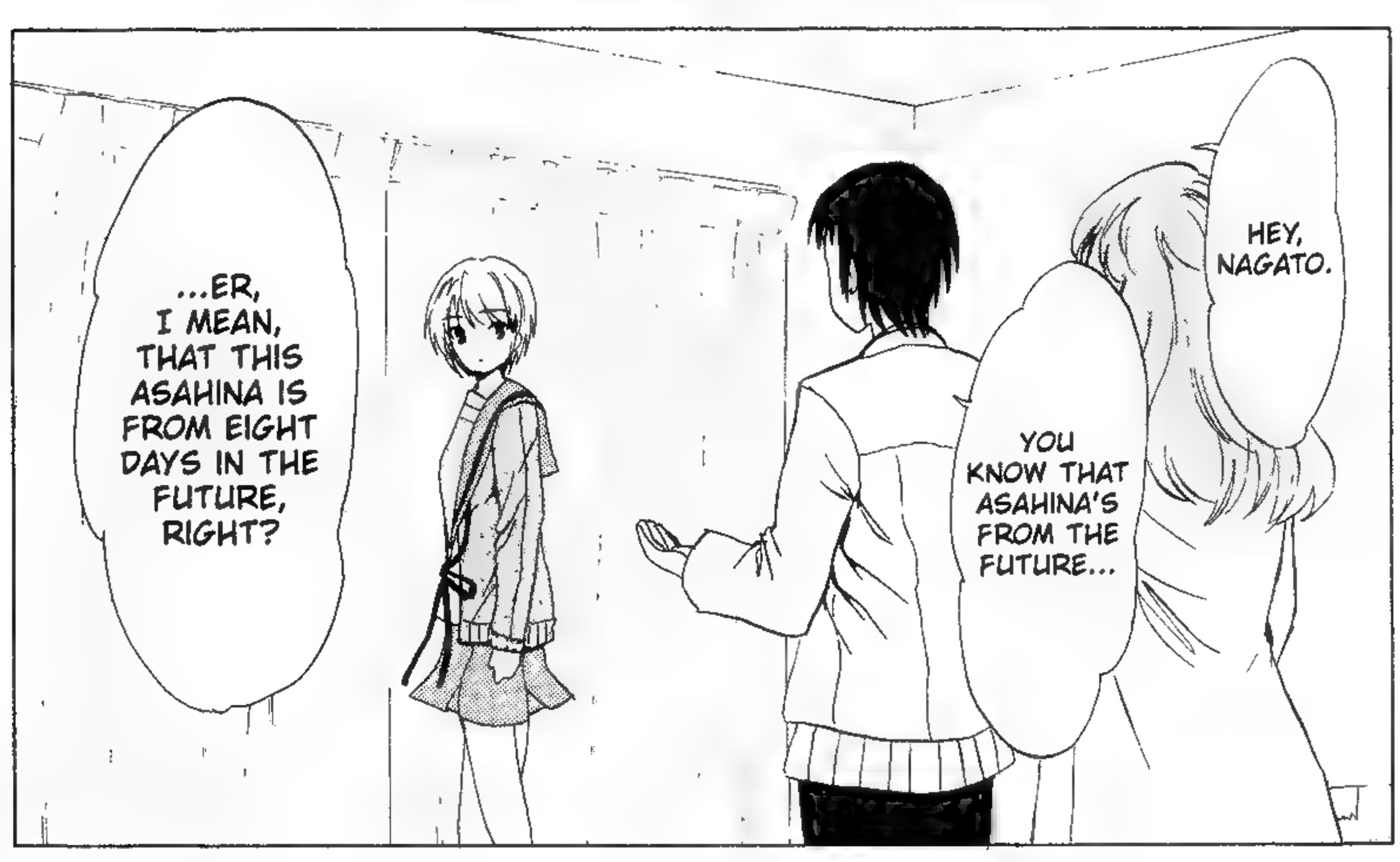
UNLESS YOU HAVE SOMEWHERE ELSE YOU CAN GO ON YOUR OWN, THIS IS THE ONLY OPTION.

PUU (POUT)
I KNOW THAT, BUT...
...I DON'T THINK NAGATO WILL ENJOY MY STAYING WITH HER VERY MUCH.
HUH?
WHY NOT?
WELL... FINE, THEN.

COME IN.
IT IS FINE.

UM... EXCUSE US.
IT SEEMS WE'VE COME TO TROUBLE YOU AGAIN...


NAGATO'S CHARM IS SAYING THINGS IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE WAY.


...ER, I MEAN, THAT THIS ASAHINA IS FROM EIGHT DAYS IN THE FUTURE, RIGHT?
HEY, NAGATO.
YOU KNOW THAT ASAHINA'S FROM THE FUTURE...

DO YOU KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT THIS?

SHE SAYS I TOLD HER TO COME HERE...

APPARENTLY ASAHINA HERSELF DOESN'T KNOW WHY SHE CAME TO THIS TIME.

I KNOW.

CAN YOU DO THAT SYNCHRO-THING?

I SEE. WE WERE HOPING YOU'D KNOW SOME-THING...

I DO NOT.

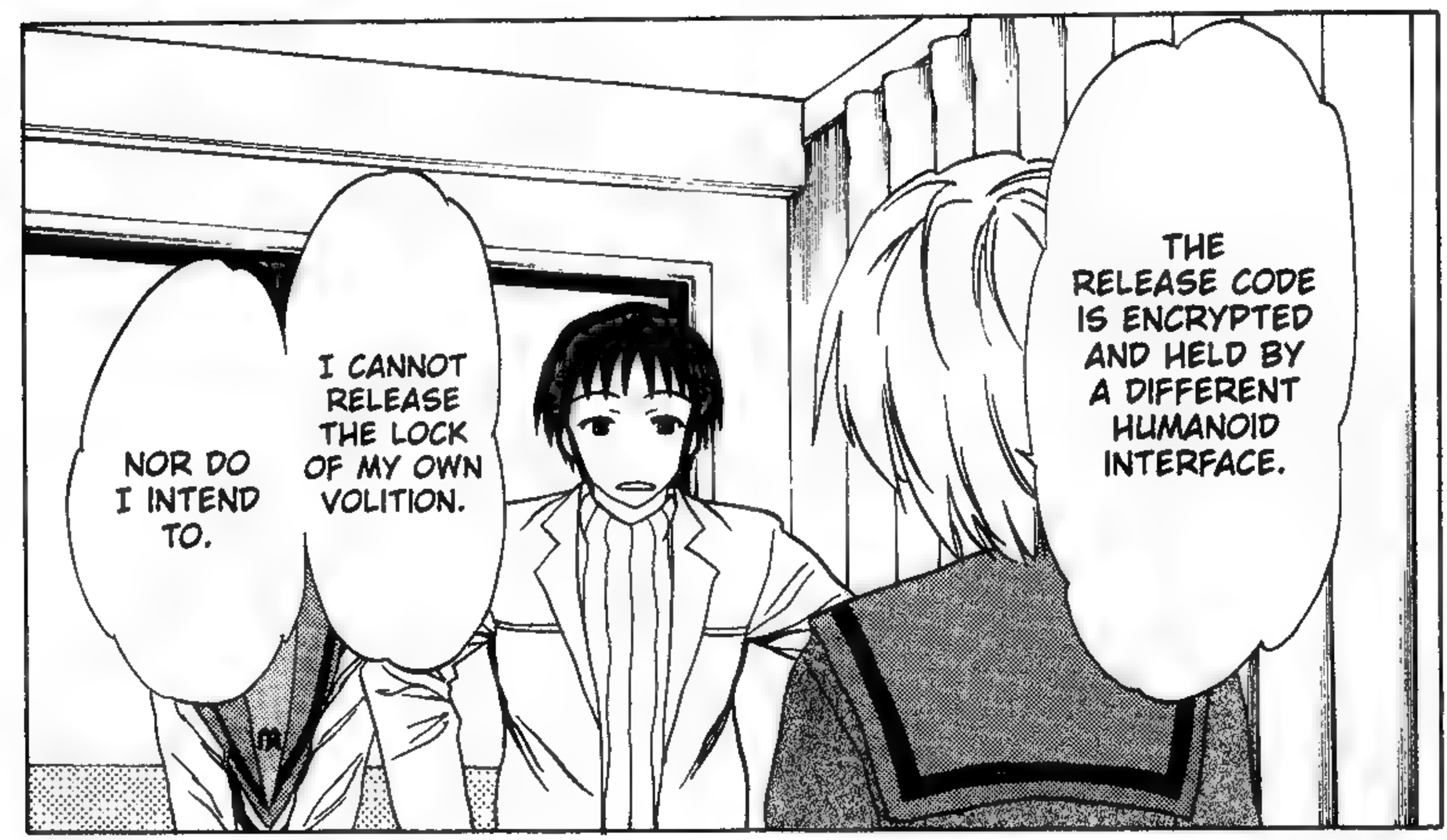
CURRENTLY, I AM UNABLE TO SYNCHRONIZE WITH SELVES FROM EITHER FUTURE OR PAST SPACE-TIME CONTINUITIES.

I CANNOT.

IT WAS DETERMINED THAT SYNCHRONIZATION COULD CAUSE IRREGULARITIES IN MY AUTONOMOUS FUNCTIONING.

EXECUTION PREVENTION CODE WAS APPLIED.

WHA...



BY LOSING THE ABILITY TO SYNCHRONIZE, I HAVE GAINED THE RIGHT TO GREATER AUTONOMY.

YOU SHOULD ACT ACCORDING TO YOUR OWN JUDGMENT.

JUST AS I AM DOING.

SO IN OTHER WORDS, YOU HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE FUTURE.

SO WHAT SHOULD I DO?

NAGATO'S TALKING ABOUT SELF-DETERMINATION.

IS SHE... LECTURING ME?

I AM CURRENTLY ABLE TO ACT ACCORDING TO MY OWN WILL.

I AM NOT CONSTRAINED BY THE FUTURE.

I HAVE DETERMINED THAT MY RESPONSIBILITY OF DETERMINING MY FUTURE SELF IS CARRIED BY MY CURRENT SELF.

YOU ARE THE SAME.

THAT ...

...IS YOUR FUTURE.

I'M SURE NAGATO STRUGGLED.

...DID THAT MEAN THAT THE RIGHT THING TO DO WAS GIVE UP?

IF THE FUTURE COULDN'T BE CHANGED...

—I DO NOT WANT TO.

—REQUESTING SYNCHRONIZATION.

—DENIED.

THINGS HAD WOUND UP REALLY DIFFICULT...

...AND IF SOMEONE WAS TO BLAME, IT WAS ME, FOR NOT NOTICING THE CHANGE IN NAGATO.

I DON'T HAVE TO REMIND MYSELF OF THIS.
I'D DONE IT MYSELF.
I'D ALREADY GONE INTO THE PAST AND TOLD MYSELF THE SAME THING.
I DIDN'T TELL MYSELF WHAT ACTION TO TAKE.
SHE DIDN'T WANT TO BE FORCED TO KNOW WHAT TO DO.
SHE HAD TO KNOW SHE WOULD DO WHATEVER SHE HAD TO.
SHE TRUSTED HERSELF.

HE WAS VERY SUPPORTIVE OF YOU DURING THE SNOWY MOUNTAIN INCIDENT.
I WISH YOU'D INCLUDE ASAHINA IN THAT STATEMENT.
AND MAYBE KOIZUMI TOO.

IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
MY HIGHEST PRIORITY REMAINS THE SAFETY OF YOU AND HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

OH...
I WILL PREPARE TEA.

.....

this

OR...

... DINNER?

THE INTRIGUES OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA-II : END

MAKE SURE YOU DON'T SLICE TOO FINELY... OKAY?

THE MELANCHOLY OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA

AT THE INTERSECTION OF XXXX AND YYYY, PROCEED SOUTH, UNTIL YOU FIND AN UNPAVED ALLEY.

○○町××番△△号にある交差点を南に進むと近くに舗装されていない裏道があります。

PLEASE LEAVE THE OBJECT AT THAT INTERSECTION, AS DIRECTED ON THE MAP BETWEEN 6:12 AND 6:15 PM.

今日午後六時十二分から十五分まで間、その裏道と市道が交差する地以下の図の通りのものを置いて下

P.S. DO NOT FORGET TO BRING MIKURU ASAHINA WITH YOU.

P.S. 必ず朝比奈みくるとともに

THE NEXT DAY, THERE WAS ANOTHER ENVELOPE WAITING FOR ME.

NO DOUBT, A MESSAGE FROM HER!...

WHAT THE HECK?

THE INTRIGUES OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA III

WHAT KIND OF INSTRUC-TIONS ARE THESE ANYWAY?

THE SECOND PAGE WAS EVEN MORE INCOMPRE-HENSIBLE.

THE MESSAGE HAD TWO PAGES.

YESTER-DAY'S EXCHANGE WAS STILL FRESH IN MY MIND...

...I WAS CERTAIN THAT THE ASAHINA-SAN IT REFERRED TO WAS THE ONE CURRENTLY IN NAGATO'S APARTMENT.

I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND IT...

BUT...

GOOO (BUBBLE)

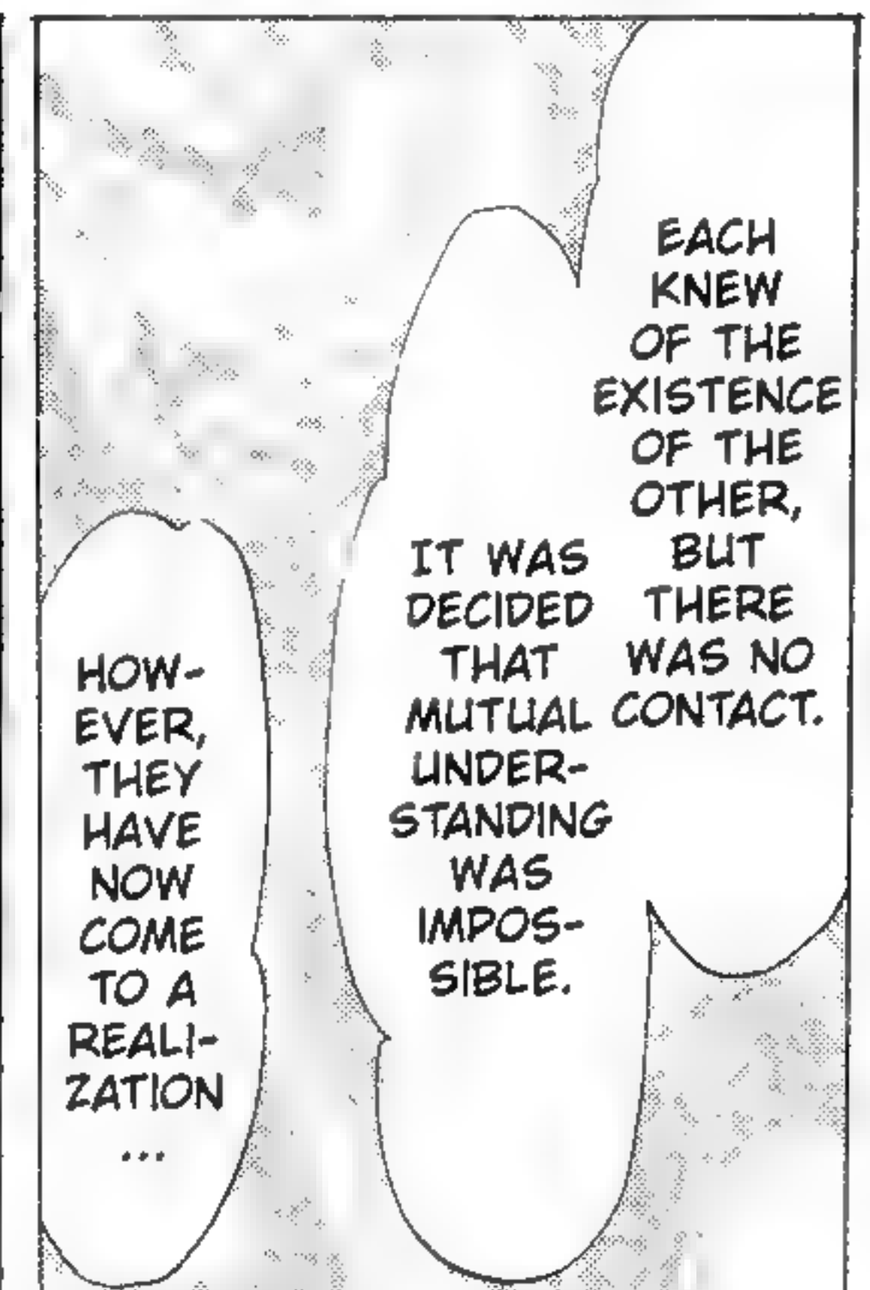
業務用 カレー

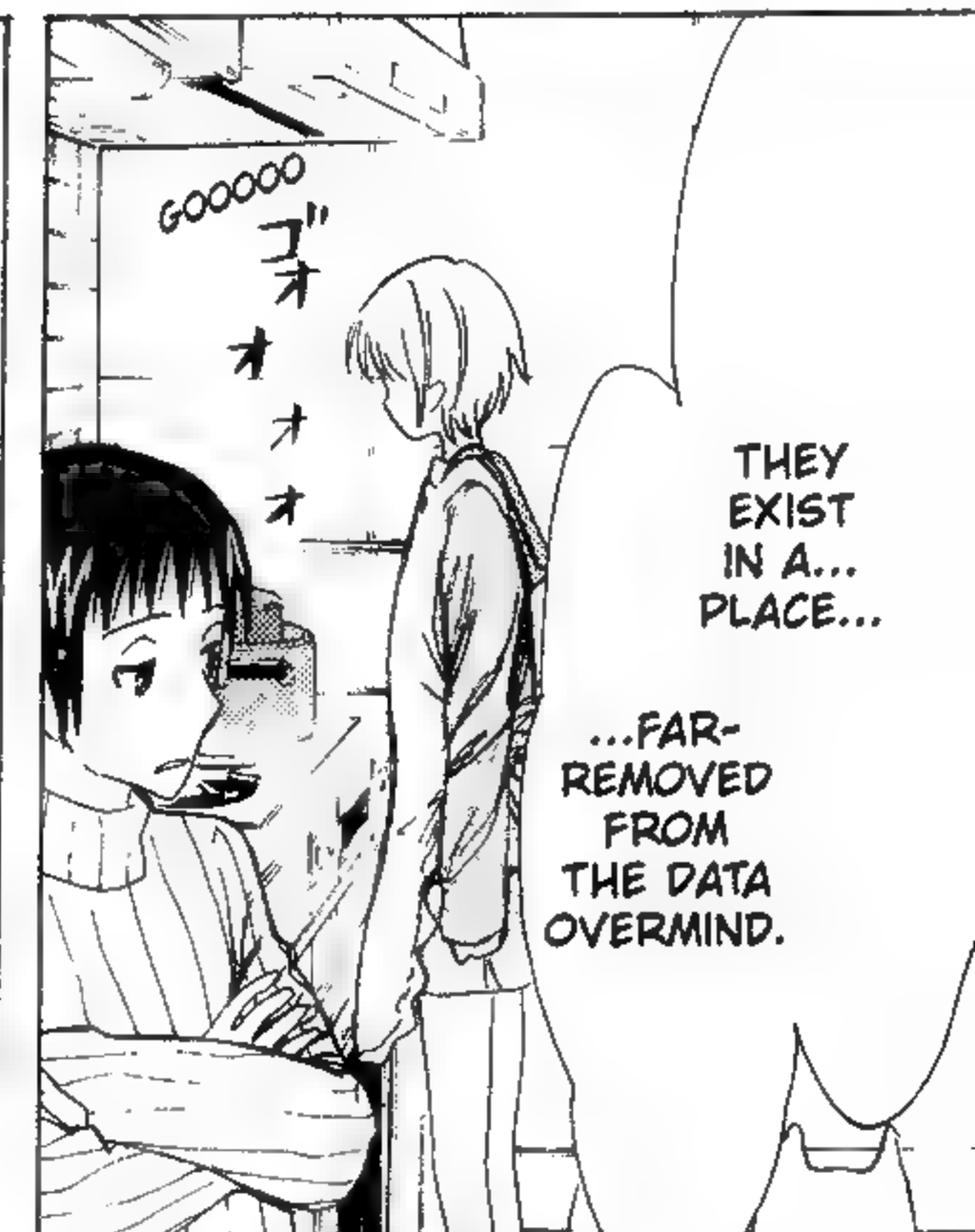
WHAT KIND OF ENEMY?

...I WILL PROTECT YOU AND HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

IN CASES OF ENEMY INTERFERENCE...

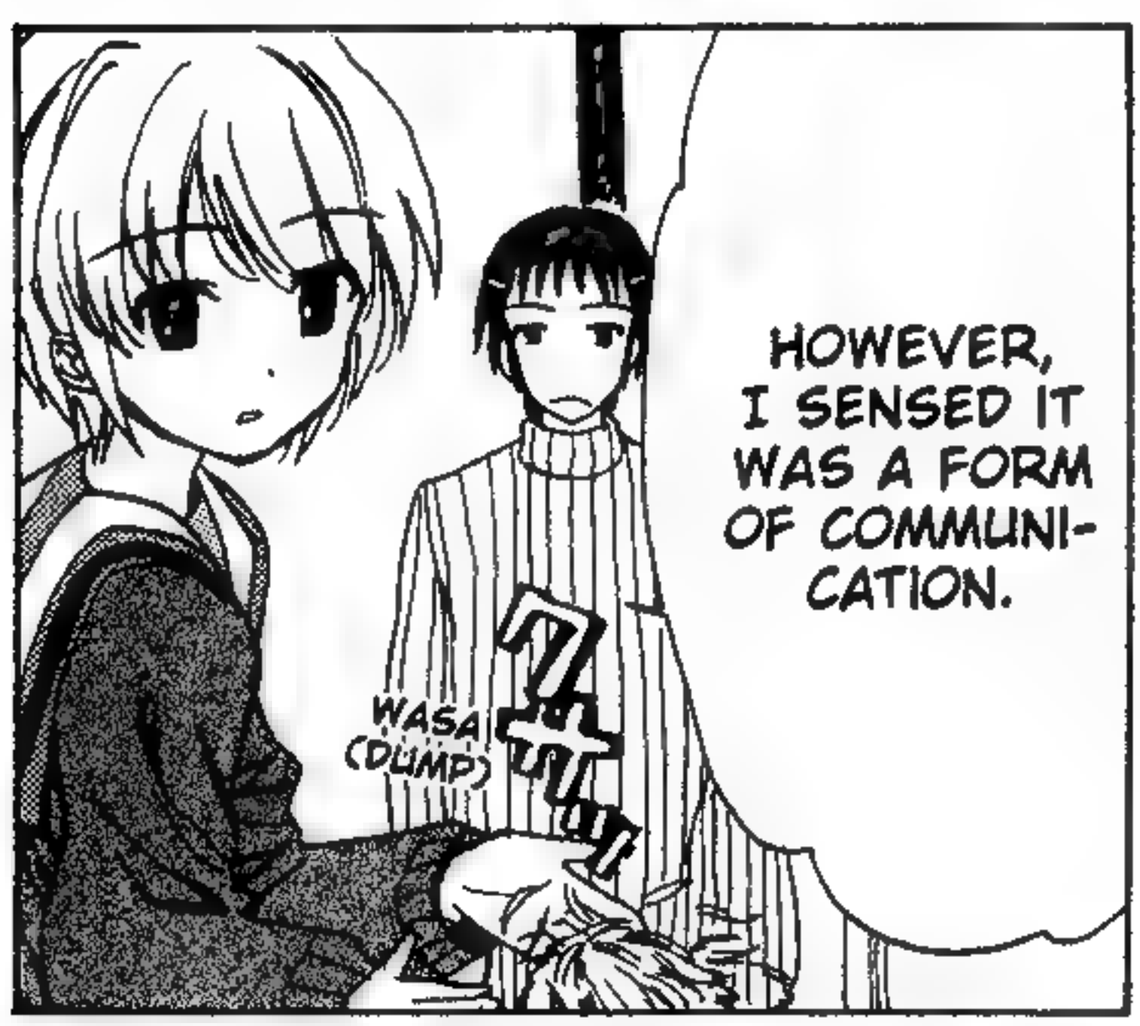
CAN: CURRY

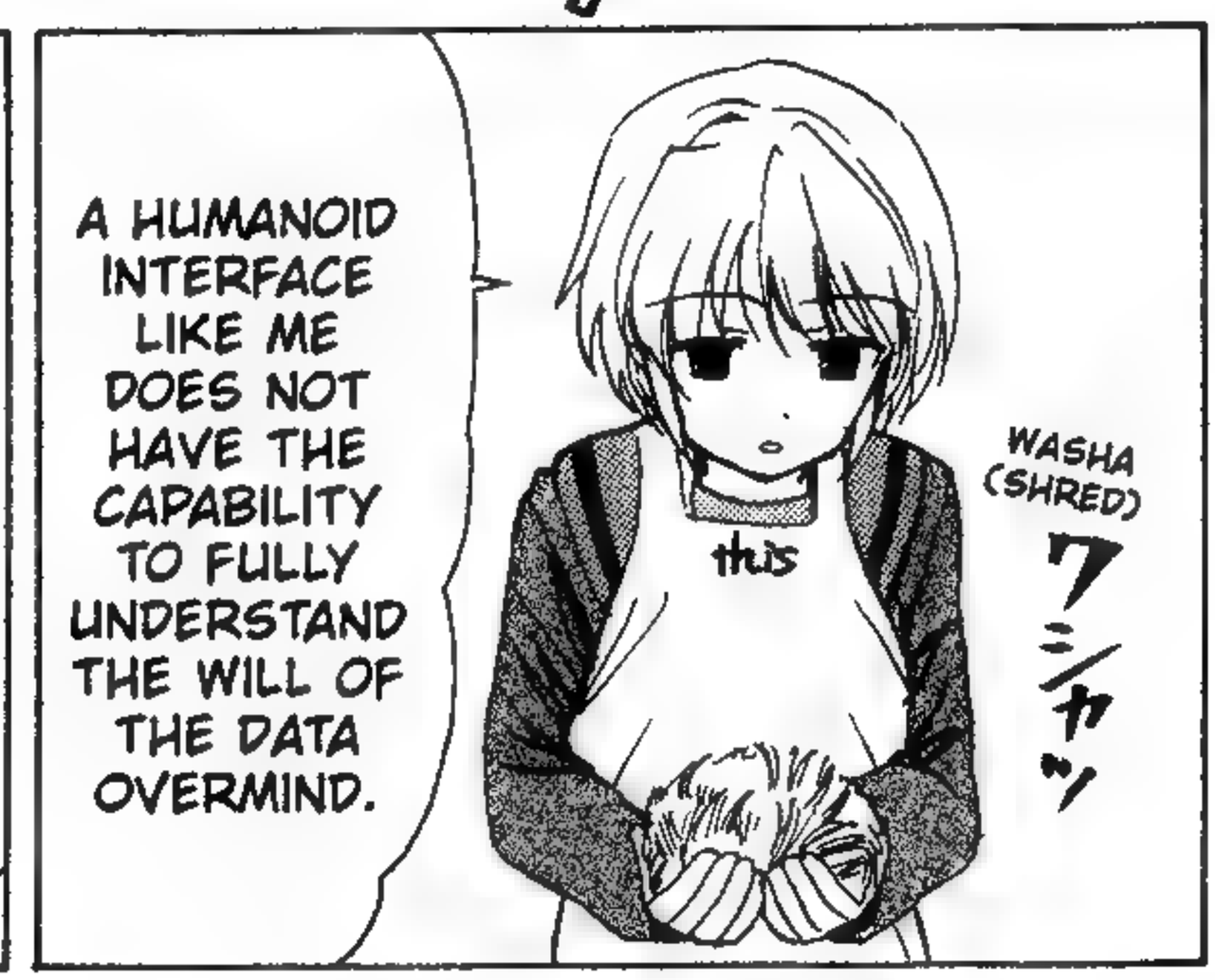




TA
SO WHAT WAS YOUR BOSS DOING?
NAPPING?

TA (CHOP)
TA
ON THE SNOWY MOUNTAIN, IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO AVERT THE DANGER WITH MY OWN ABILITIES.


HOWEVER, I SENSED IT WAS A FORM OF COMMUNICATION.
WASA (DUMP)


A HUMANOID INTERFACE LIKE ME DOES NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE WILL OF THE DATA OVERMIND.
WASHA (SHRED)
this

IT IS SURMISED THAT THEY LIKEWISE ARE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND OUR THINKING.
TOPO (GLUG)
PO
THEY ARE UTTERLY UNLIKE US. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND THEIR COGNITIVE PROCESSES.

YOU CALL THAT COMMUNICATION?
THEY JUST SEALED US AWAY!

SO THAT'S IT, THEN?

PERFECT DATA TRANSFER IS IMPOSSIBLE.

SO WHAT DO THEY THINK OF HARUHI?

IT IS POSSIBLE.

YOU DON'T SUPPOSE THEY'VE ALREADY ...

ゴトッ
GOTO (THUNK)

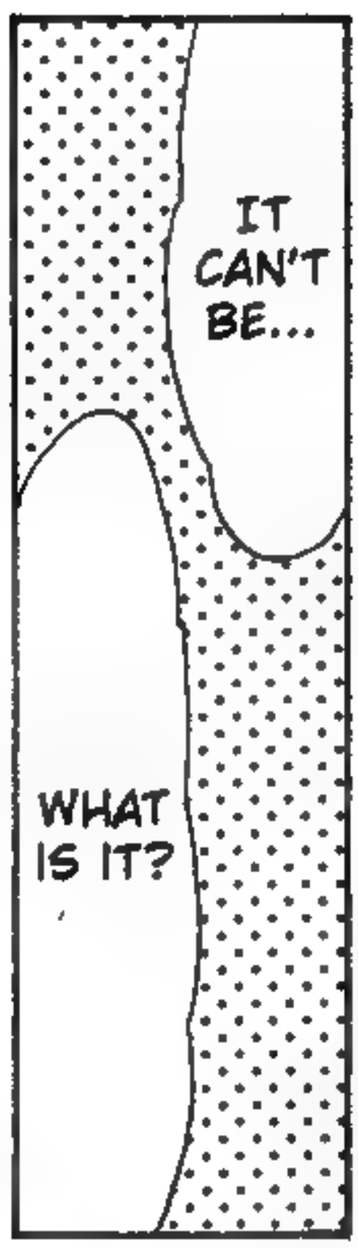
DOON (BAM)

...SOME CONTACT, THOUGH IMPERFECT, MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

HOWEVER ...

...IF THEY WERE TO CONSTRUCT A HUMANOID INTERFACE LIKE ME...

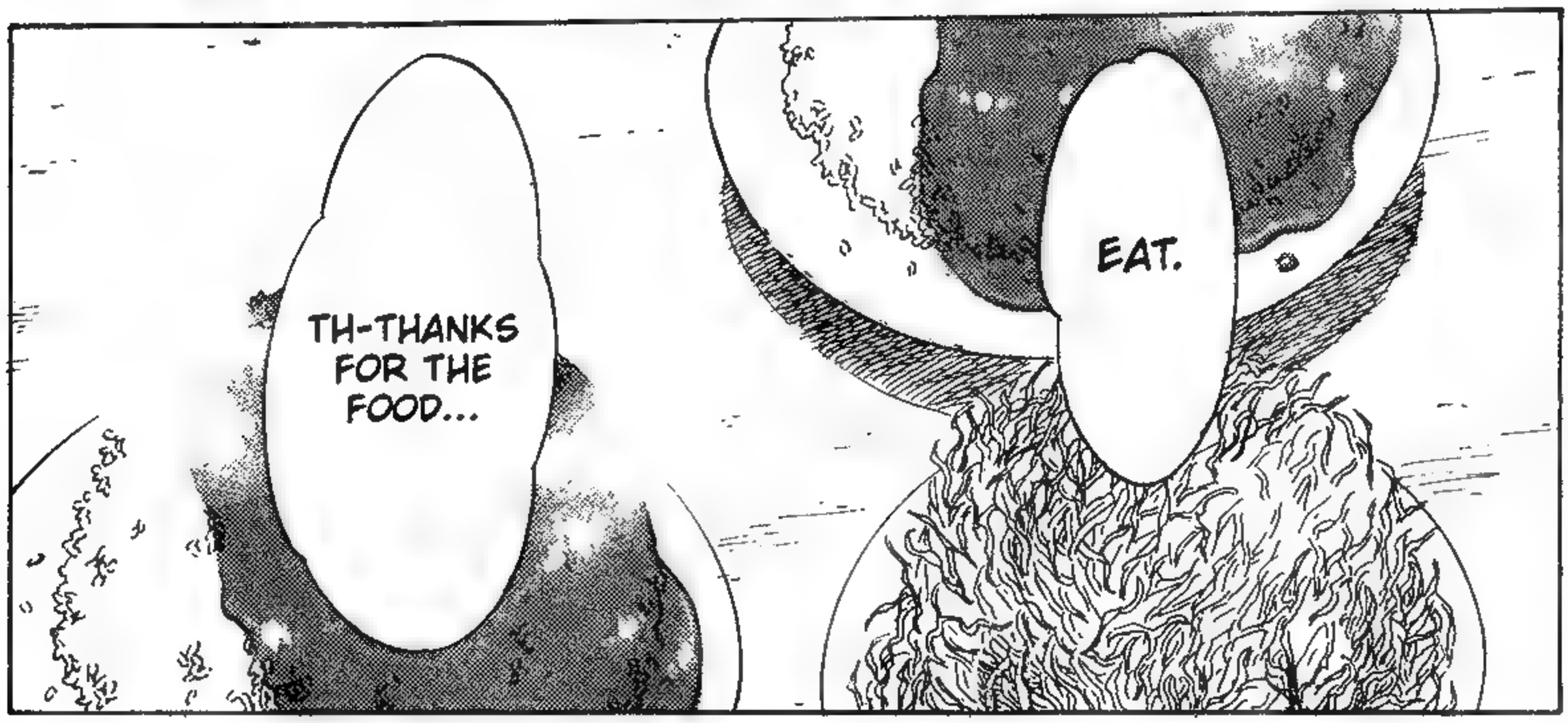
OH, IT'S NOTHING.
REALLY, NOTHING ...


IT CAN'T BE...
WHAT IS IT?

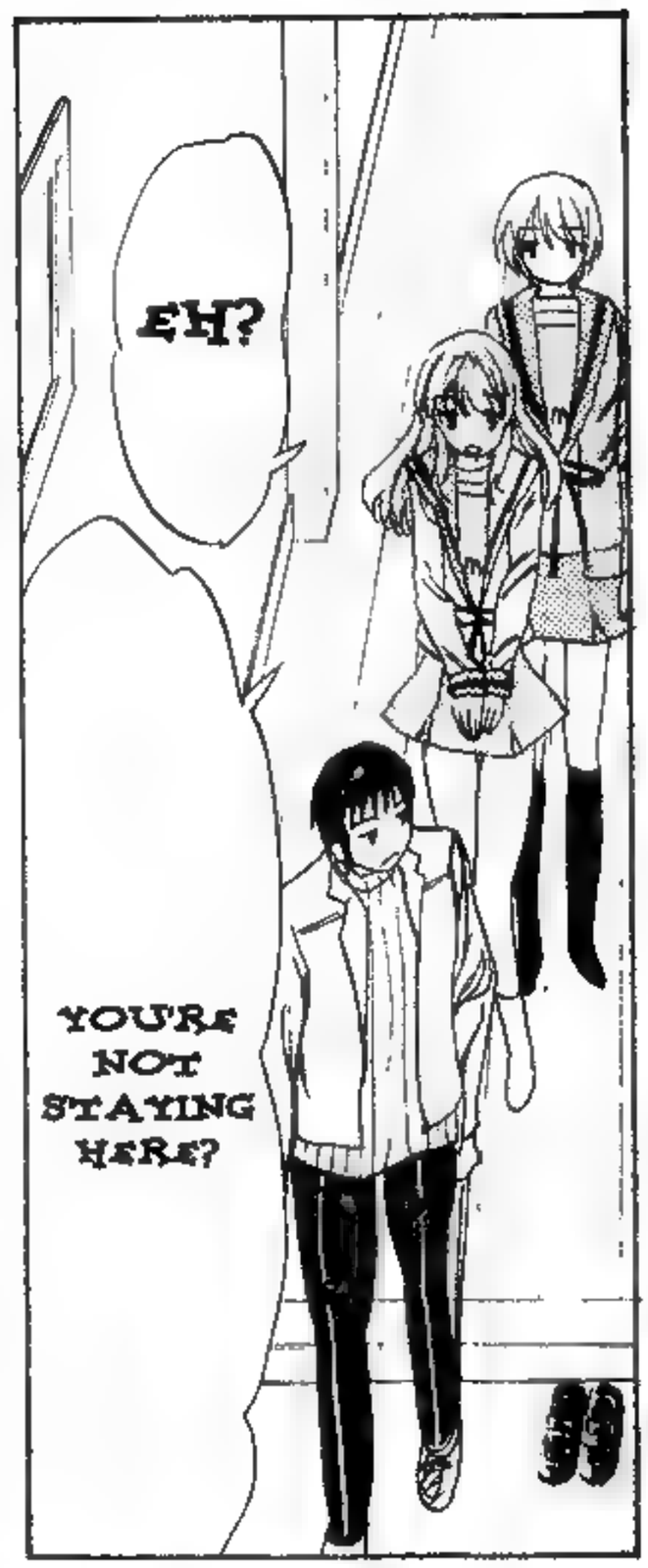
AH...

OH, SO YOU DO KNOW ABOUT THAT KIND OF STUFF.
YOU ARE A GUEST.

PITA (STOP)
OH!!
BUT I SHOULD HELP YOU WITH THE COOKING ...!


TH-THANKS FOR THE FOOD...
EAT.

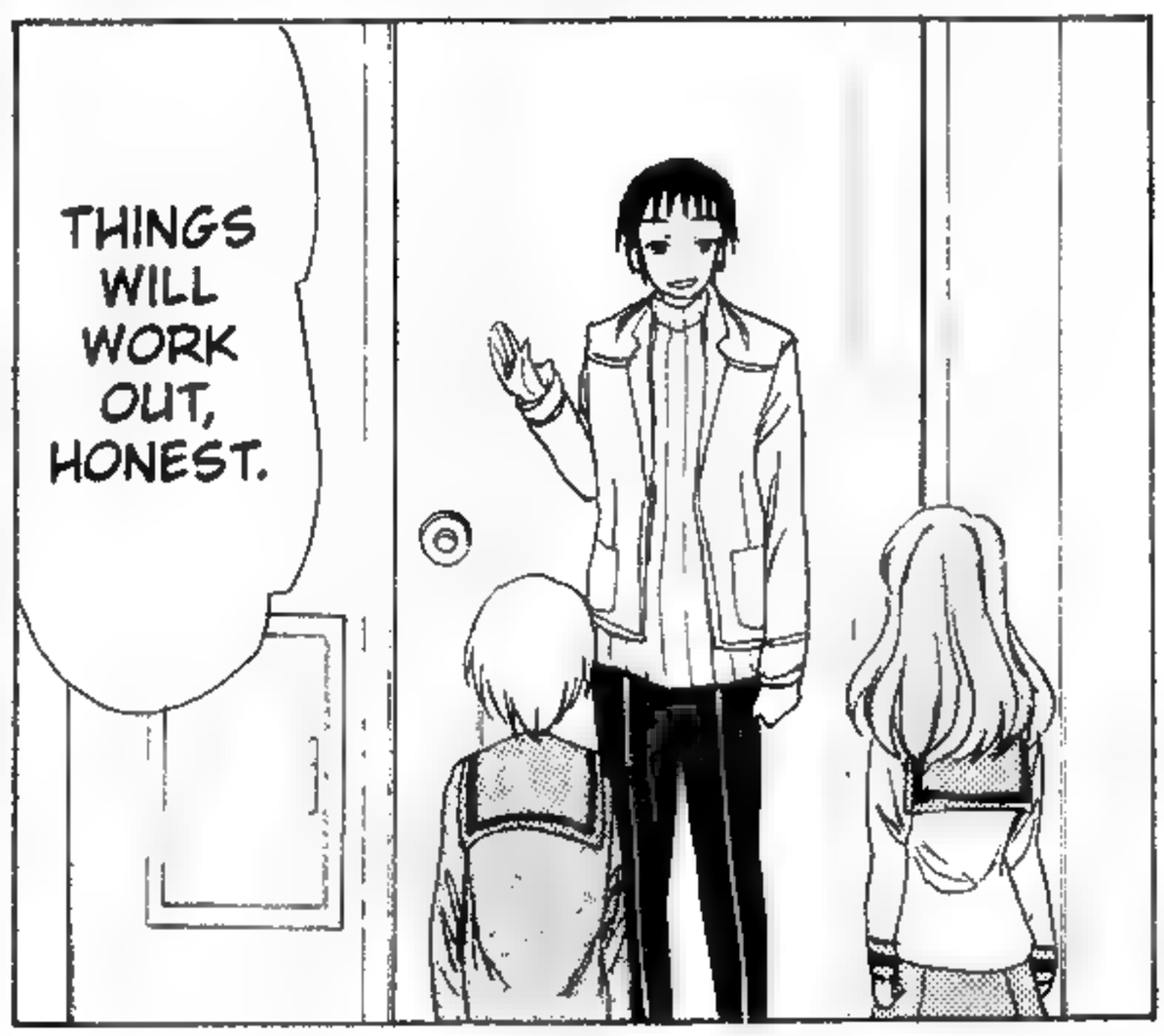
I'M GOING HOME TO-NIGHT.
I'LL COME BY AFTER SCHOOL TOMOR-ROW.


EH?
YOU'RE NOT STAYING HERE?

THAT WAS DELI-CIOUS. SO, I GUESS I'LL BE GOING ...

I KNOW YOU'RE INVOLVED IN THIS SOMEHOW.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, ASAHINA THE ELDER?

IS THAT ALL RIGHT, NAGATO?
コックリ
KOKKLIN (NOD)


THINGS WILL WORK OUT, HONEST.

POWER LIMITATION, HUH?

THE DAY WHEN NAGATO WILL BECOME A NORMAL STUDENT MIGHT BE CLOSE.

IF IT CAME TO THAT, I'D HAVE TO GET BY WITHOUT RELYING ON HER TOO MUCH.

I'D LIKELY BE IN MORE TROUBLE THAN I WAS NOW.

BUT SO WHAT?

I REGRETTED IT, A LITTLE BIT.

THAT SHY LITTLE SMILE... IF IT COULD EXIST IN THIS WORLD, I WANTED IT TO.

HEY, HARUHI.
SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE NOTICED ANYTHING...
ABOUT SHAMISEN ...
OH, UH...
HE'S OKAY.
HUH?
HOW'S SHAMI-SEN DOING?
WAS SHE THAT WORRIED ABOUT HIM?
WHAT WAS THIS SUDDEN PERMIS-SIVENESS?
FINE, WHAT-EVER.
SO I CAN'T DO THE CLUB...
I HAVE TO TAKE HIM TO THE VET AGAIN TODAY.
IF YOU'VE GOT A GOOD REASON, I DON'T MIND.
WHAT KIND OF FACE IS THAT?

BECAUSE I STILL HAVE TO FIGURE OUT THE ASAHINA PROBLEM.

WE'LL BE WAITING.

NO, THIS EASY-GOING ATTITUDE IS DEFINITELY WEIRD.

BUT JUST THIS ONCE, I'M GRATEFUL FOR IT.

TELL HIM I SAID TO GET WELL, OKAY?

I'LL COME VISIT HIM SOON.

IF HARUHI WAS LIKE THAT FOR HALF HER WAKING HOURS, THAT WAS FINE.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, IT WAS ENOUGH TO PUT ME AT EASE.

SHE'S GOING TO GET US ALL WRAPPED UP IN A TREASURE HUNT SOON.

HARUHI'S MELANCHOLY WILL NOT LAST LONG.

I UNDERSTAND, THOUGH.

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE HERE.

HOW'S ASAHINA-SAN DOING?

GII (CREAK)

NOW, THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO DURING LUNCH.

WELL, THAT'S GOOD.

NO.

SHE'S NOT CAUSING ANY TROUBLE, IS SHE?

.....

"HOW" ...?

IT'S BECAUSE BOTH ASAHINA-SAN AND I ARE ALWAYS IN YOUR DEBT.

SHE'S BEING CONSID-ERATE.

HOW-EVER ...

...SHE IS UNEASY WHEN I AM THERE.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
IT IS MUTUAL.
...AND RELIED ON OTHERS.
I HAVE ALSO BEEN THE CAUSE OF PROBLEMS ...

THERE IS NOT COMPLETE CONSENSUS.
BUT THE MAIN FACTION STILL LEADS.

THEY'VE SUPPRESSED THE EXTREMIST FACTION, RIGHT?
SO WHAT'S YOUR BOSS UP TO?

AND ASAKURA WAS THE EXTREMIST FACTION.
ARE THERE OTHERS?

FACTIONAL INFIGHTING, EH?
YOU'RE CONNECTED TO THE MAIN FACTION, RIGHT?
YES.

SO FAR AS I AM AWARE...

...THERE IS THE MODERATE, THE REVOLUTIONARY, THE COMPROMISE, AND THE CONTEMPLATIVE.

I... SEE...

I CANNOT TRANSMIT THE THOUGHTS OF OTHER FACTIONS.

BUT I AM HERE.

I WILL NOT LET THEM DO AS THEY PLEASE.

SO STRANGE ...

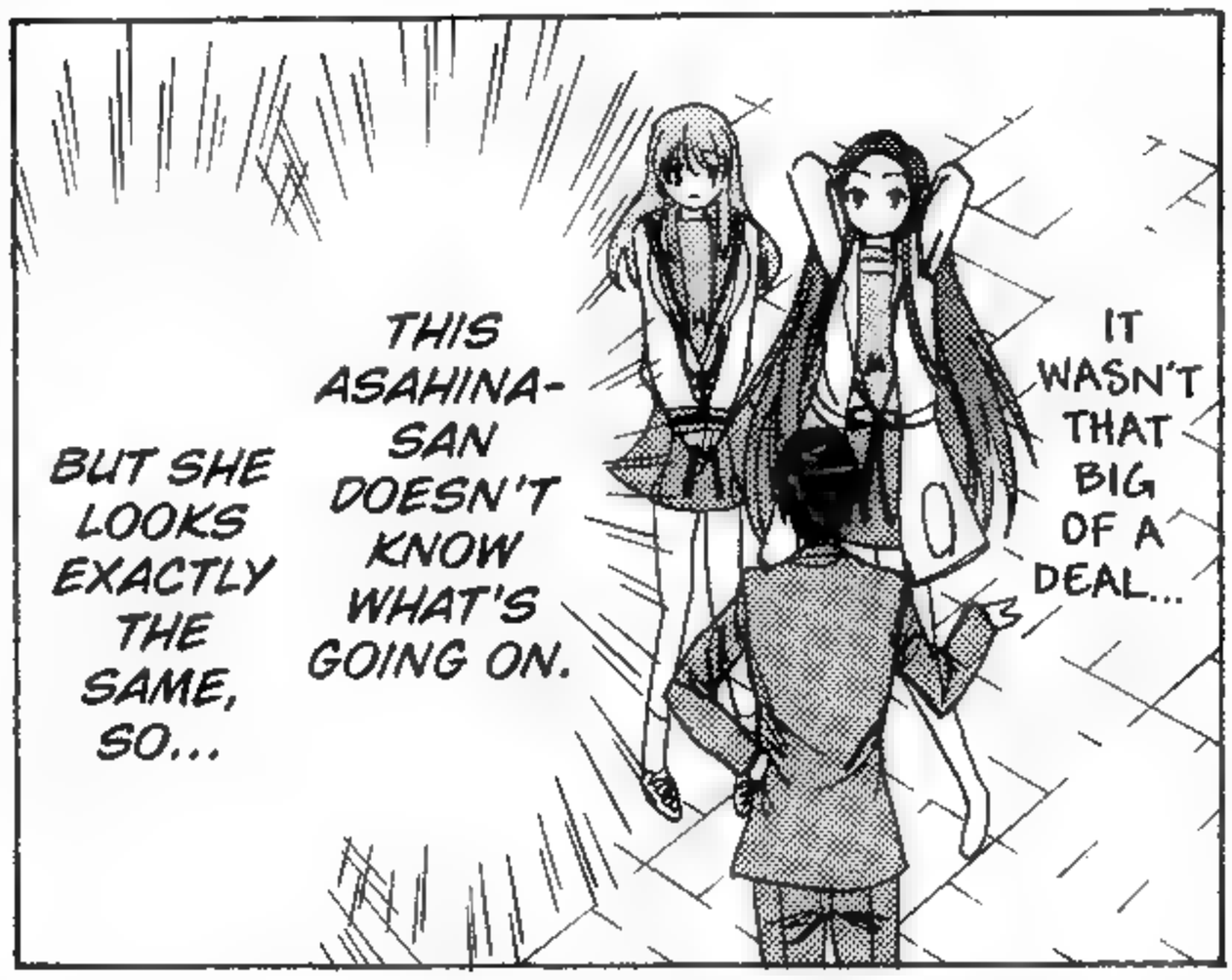
HER EVEN VOICE SOUNDED SO TRUSTWORTHY.

UH... YES.
OOPS ...

IS YOUR KITTY OKAY?
OH, HI.

HEYA, KYON-KUN!

STILL, HAIR LOSS FROM STRESS?
I BET HE'S NOT GETTING ENOUGH EXERCISE!

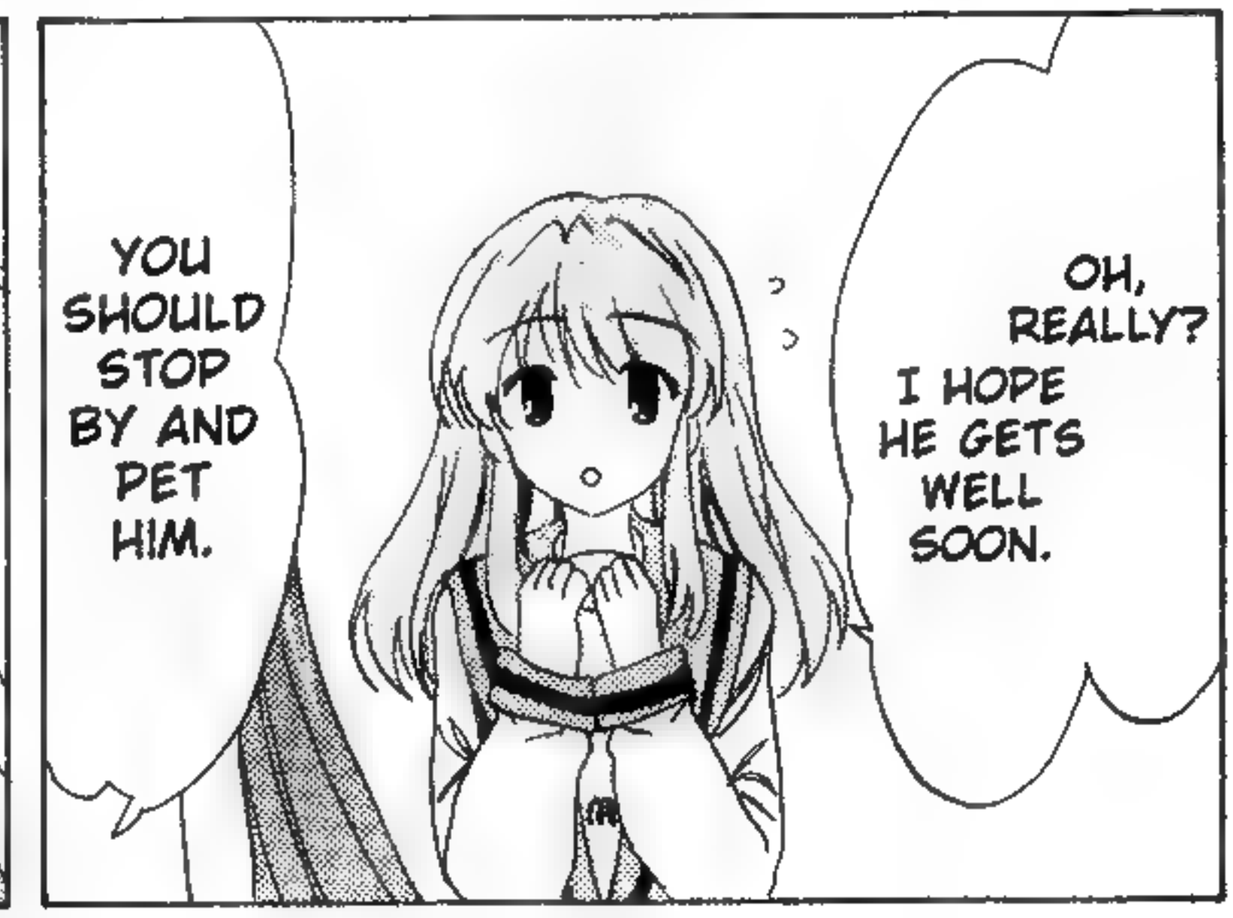

BUT SHE LOOKS EXACTLY THE SAME, SO...
THIS ASAHINA-SAN DOESN'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
IT WASN'T THAT BIG OF A DEAL...

I'LL BET.
ONCE HE'S BETTER...
GOOO!
DO (THMP) DO DO DO DO
I BET IT'D BE GREAT EXERCISE!
WE GET FIELD MICE THERE ALL THE TIME!
YOU SHOULD BRING HIM OVER TO OUR GARDEN.

I HAVE TO TAKE SHAMISEN TO THE VET.
I ALREADY TOLD HARUHI.

KYON-KUN, ARE YOU COMING TO THE CLUB ROOM TODAY?

IT PAINED ME TO LIE, BUT...


YOU SHOULD STOP BY AND PET HIM.
OH, REALLY? I HOPE HE GETS WELL SOON.

I HAD TO GO ASK THE OTHER ASAHINA-SAN WHAT THE DAY'S PLAN WAS.
STILL, THIS WAS BAD FOR MY HEART.

SO AFTER SCHOOL...

GARA (SLIDE)

カラ

LET'S SEE, WHERE WAS IT ...?

A HAMMER AND...

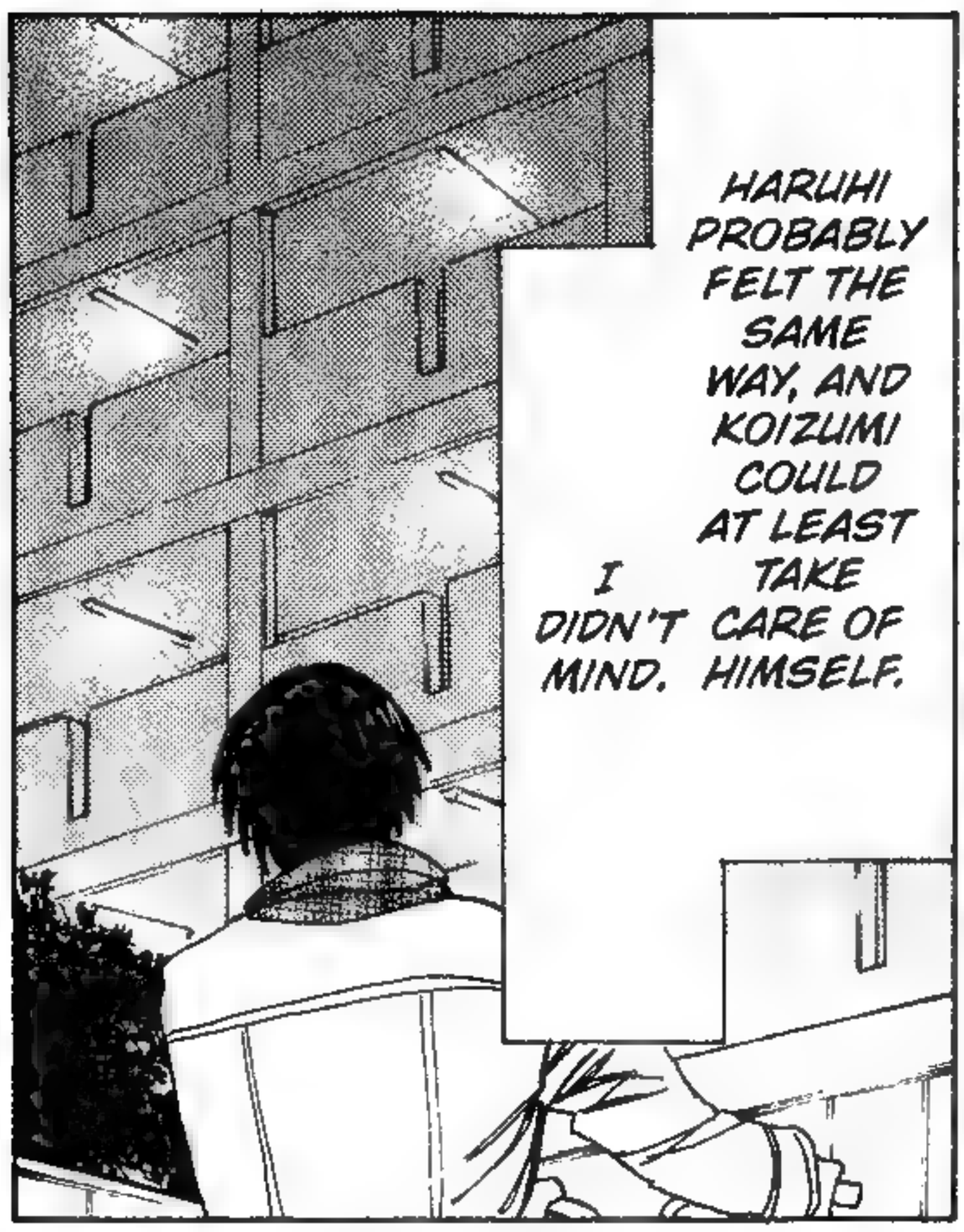
CHA (CLACK)

チャ

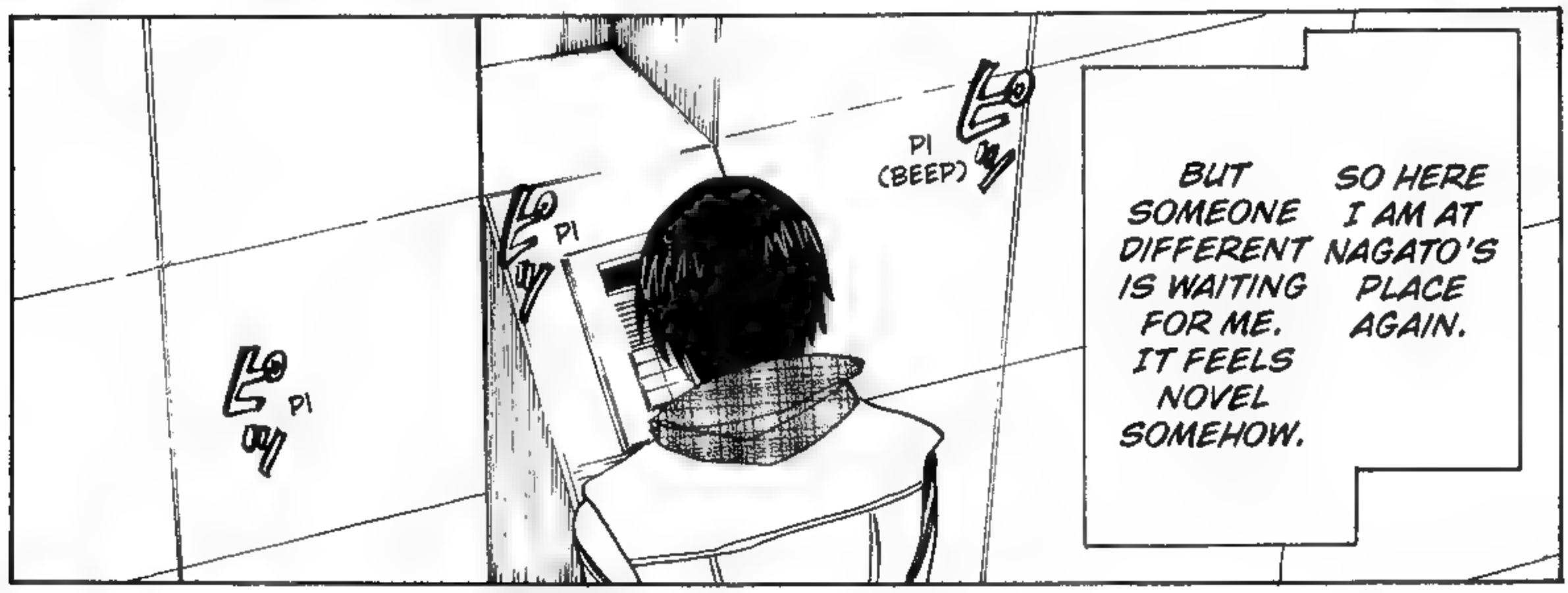
...BEFORE I WENT TO MEET ASAHINA-SAN, I HAD TO PICK UP SOME THINGS AT HOME.

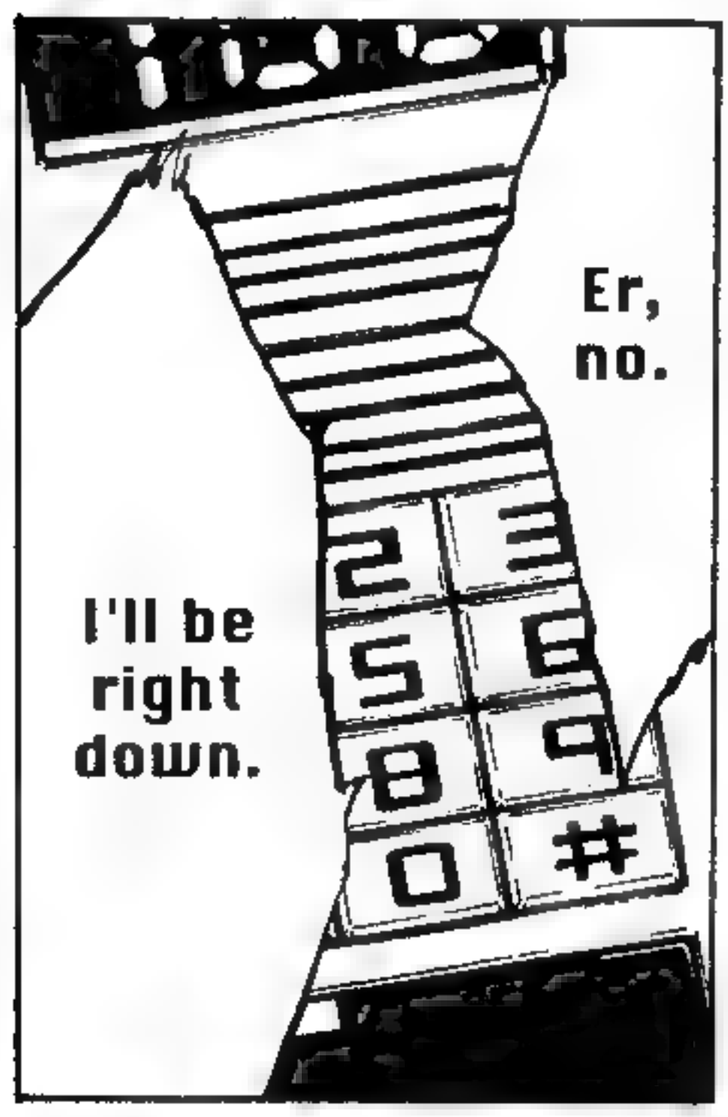
WELL, THERE'S NO POINT THINKING ABOUT IT...

ARE YOU SERIOUS, ASAHINA THE ELDER ...?

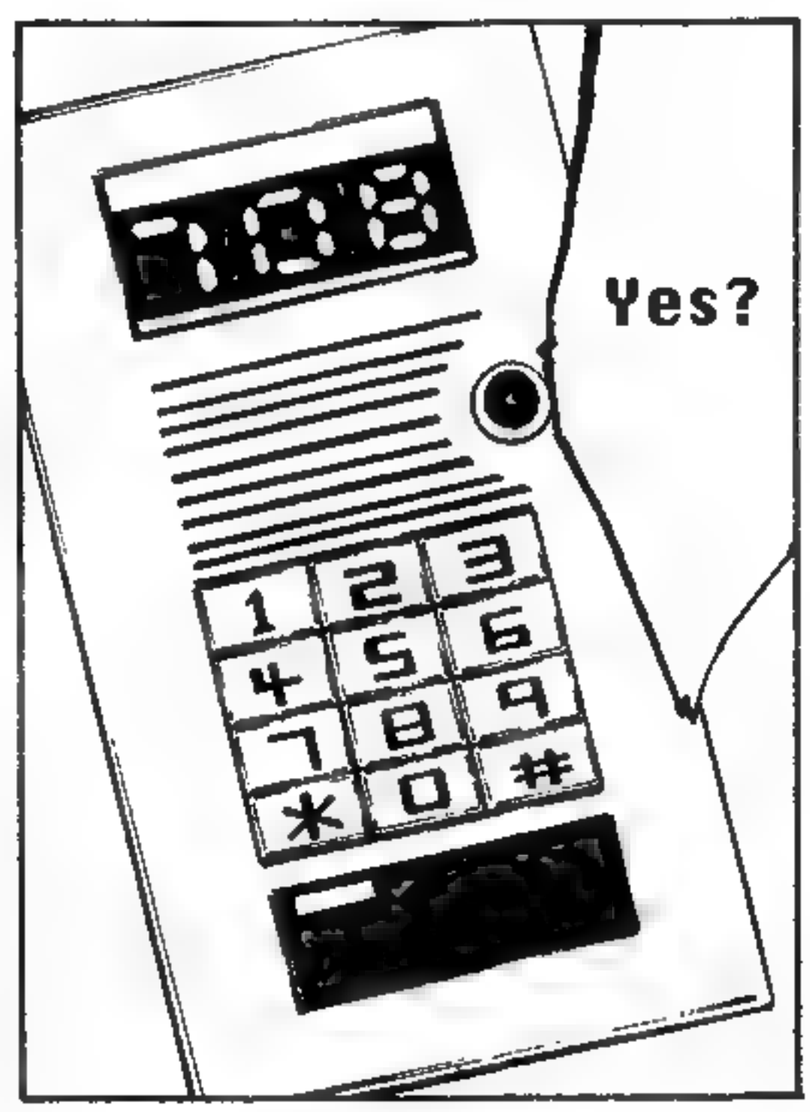

HARUHI PROBABLY FELT THE SAME WAY, AND KOIZUMI COULD AT LEAST TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.
I DIDN'T MIND.

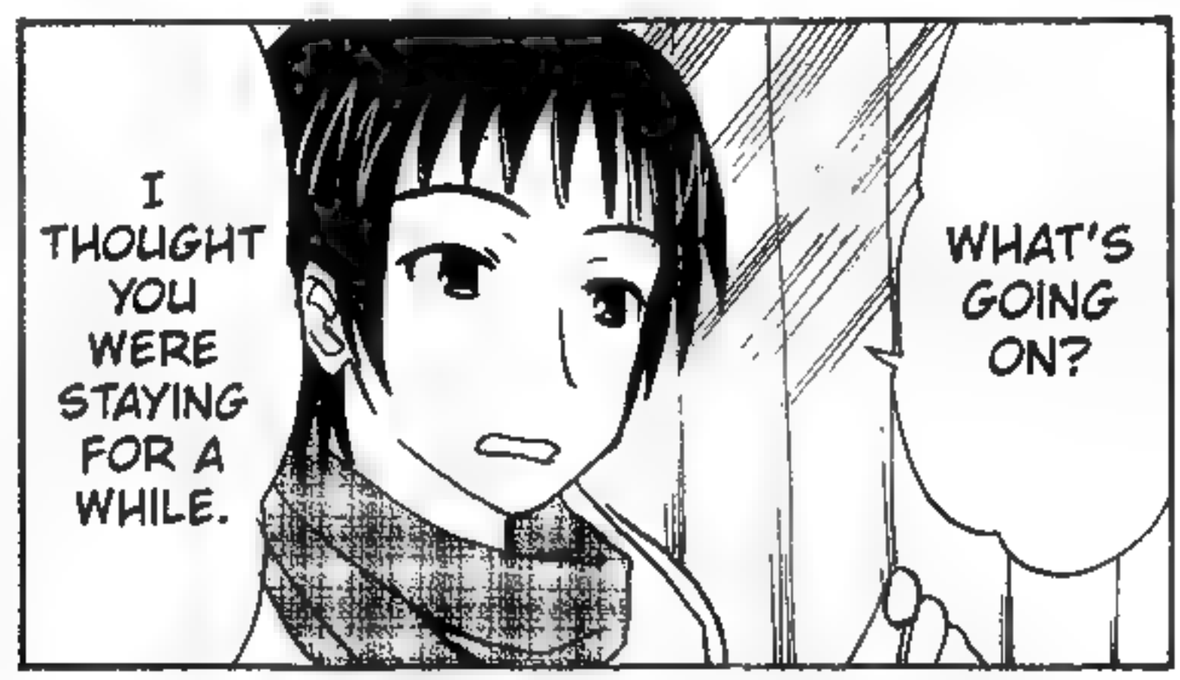
SO I WANT TO PROTECT NAGATO AND ASAHINA-SAN TOO.
COME WHAT MAY, NAGATO WOULD PROTECT US.


PI
PI
PI
(BEEP)
BUT SOMEONE DIFFERENT IS WAITING FOR ME. IT FEELS NOVEL SOMEHOW.
SO HERE I AM AT NAGATO'S PLACE AGAIN.


Er, no.
I'll be right down.

It's me.
Did anything happen?


Yes?



SIGN: SUPERINTENDENT

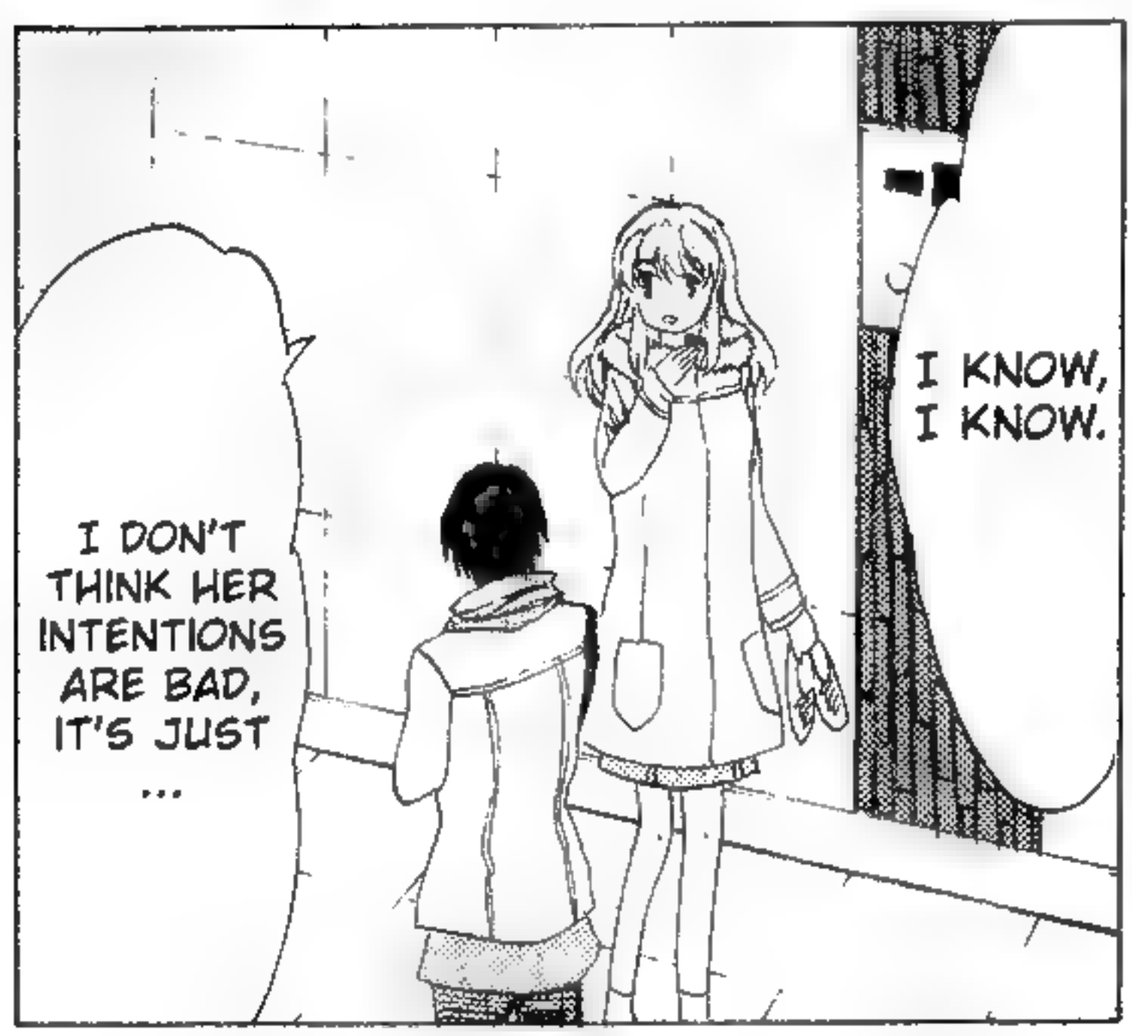
YES... IT'S JUST A FEELING, BUT...

OH, FOR REAL?
WHAT THE HECK?
I HEARD THE SAME LINE FROM NAGATO.

...I HAVE MY OWN ROOM, BUT...
WHEN I'M SLEEP-ING...
...IT FEELS LIKE SHE'S STANDING RIGHT BY MY BED LOOKING DOWN AT ME.
BUT SHE JUST SEEMS SO CONSCIOUS OF ME.
IT REALLY IS JUST A FEELING!

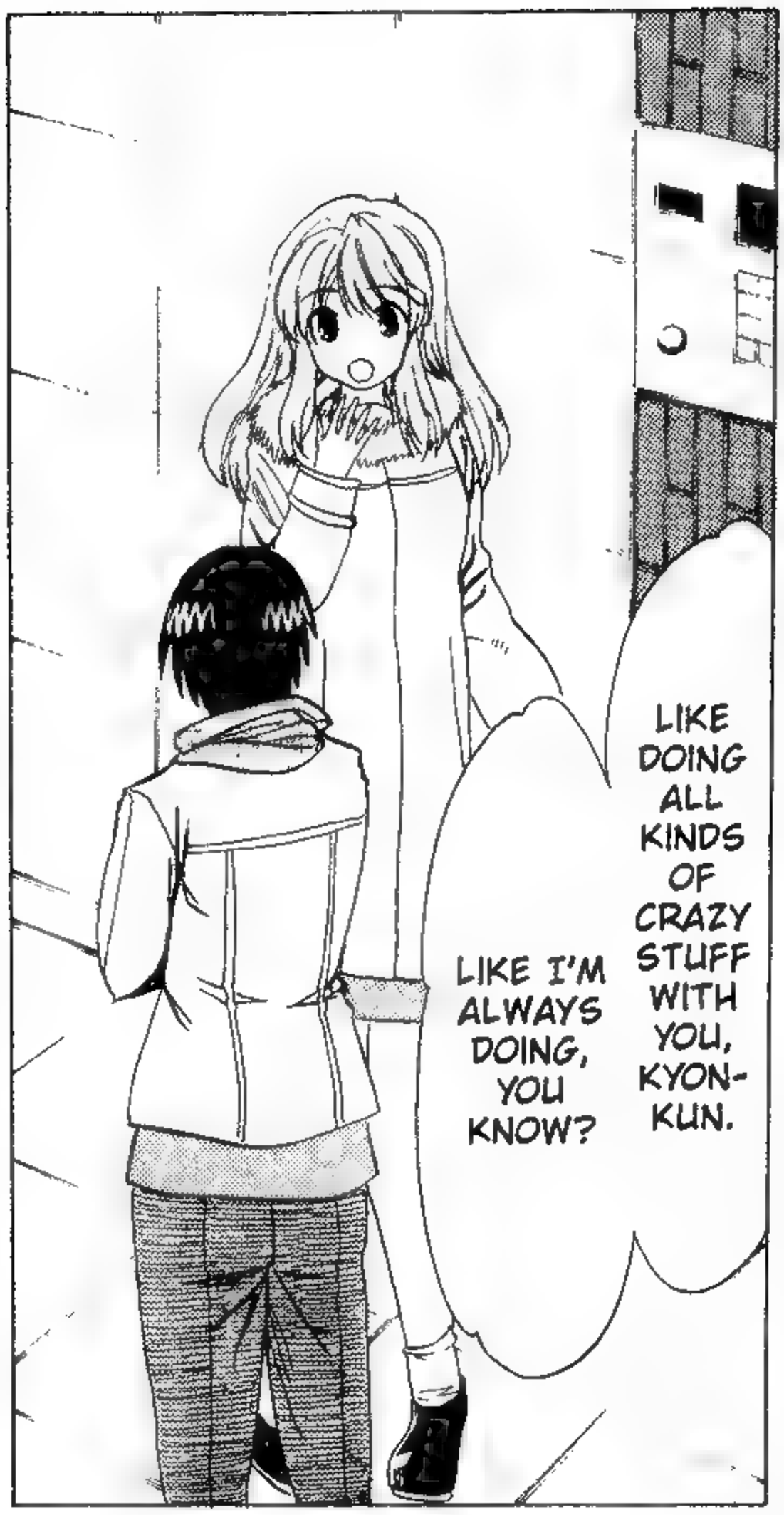
I HAD THE FEELING SHE'D BEEN STARING AT ME AS I SLEPT...
IT HAPPENED LAST MONTH TOO.

BUT IT'S VERY STRONG WHEN IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US.
I DON'T GET THE SAME FEELING WHEN WE'RE ALL TOGETHER.


I DON'T THINK HER INTENTIONS ARE BAD, IT'S JUST ...
I KNOW, I KNOW.

WHAT IS THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN?
YOU MAKE HER SOUND LIKE A GHOST.

IT'S LIKE SHE'S HUNG UP ON ME SOMEHOW.
IT'S JUST WHAT I FEEL.


LIKE DOING ALL KINDS OF CRAZY STUFF WITH YOU, KYON-KUN.
LIKE I'M ALWAYS DOING, YOU KNOW?

IT'S LIKE SHE WANTS TO BE LIKE ME.

SHE'S ALWAYS WATCHING OVER US.
BUT I'M ALWAYS THE ONE GETTING SAVED.

I WONDER IF THAT'S PART OF WHY SHE CHANGED THE PAST.

I THINK SHE MIGHT WANT TO BECOME LIKE ME IN A WAY.
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT LIKE THAT, IT MAKES SENSE.
WHAT I'M FEELING FROM HER, I MEAN.
THAT WOULDN'T BE HALF BAD.

I THINK NAGATO-SAN KNOWS THIS ABOUT HERSELF TOO.

A PERSON WHO'S ALWAYS ACTING IN IGNORANCE.

A TIME TRAVELER WHOSE POSITION IS THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF HERS.

NAGATO'S IDEAL IS ASAHINA-SAN?

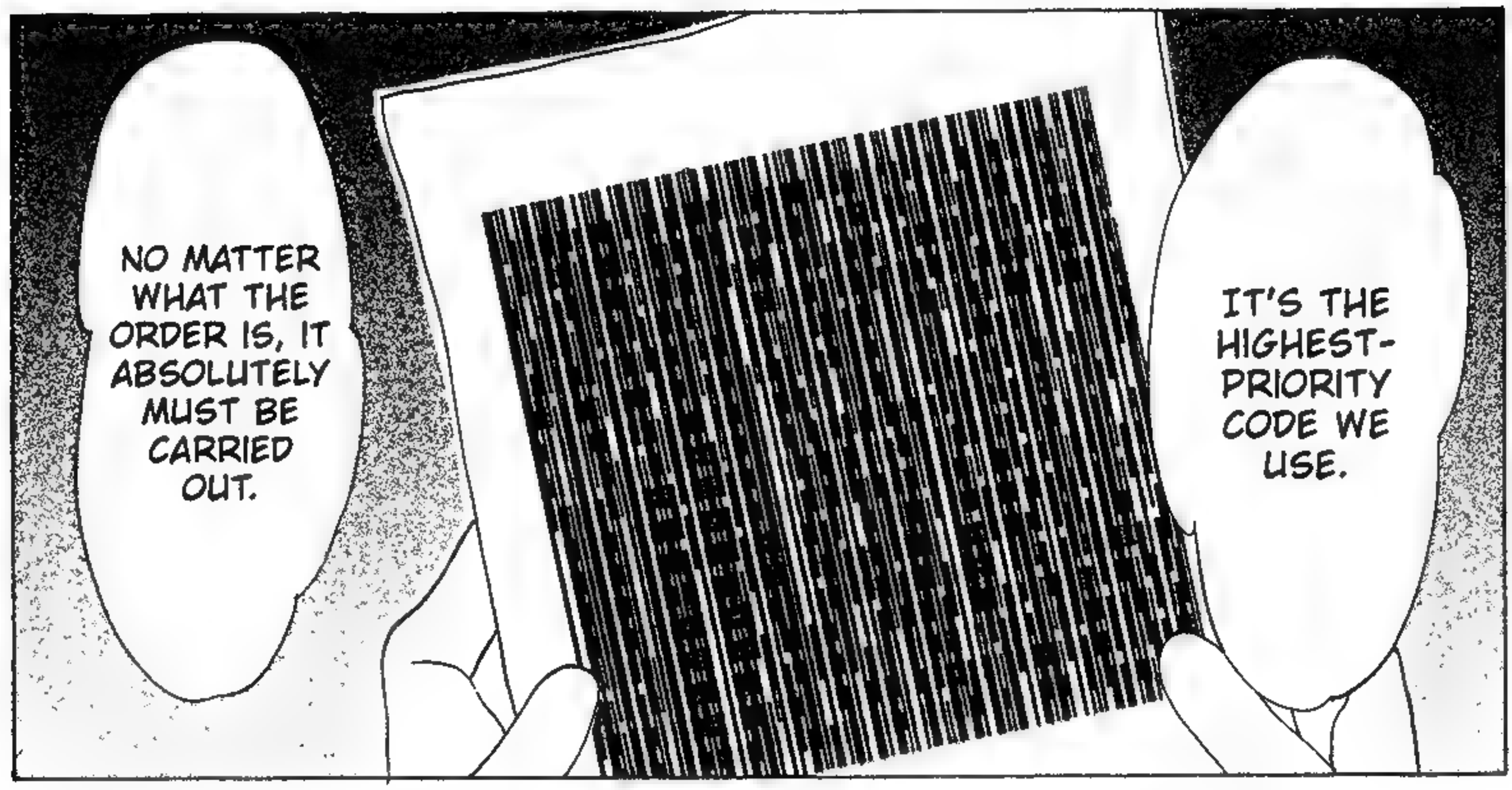
SUCH IRONY.

ASAHINA-SAN SUFFERS HER OWN IGNORANCE, WHILE NAGATO KNOWS TOO MUCH...

AND IF SOMEONE PRESSES HER ABOUT IT, SHE'D JUST FEIGN IGNORANCE ...

NAGATO HAS HER OWN VIRTUES. IF SHE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT, IT WOULD BE HARD FOR HER.

A DIRECTIVE CODE, A TOP-LEVEL ONE.
OH... THIS IS...


NO MATTER WHAT THE ORDER IS, IT ABSOLUTELY MUST BE CARRIED OUT.
IT'S THE HIGHEST-PRIORITY CODE WE USE.

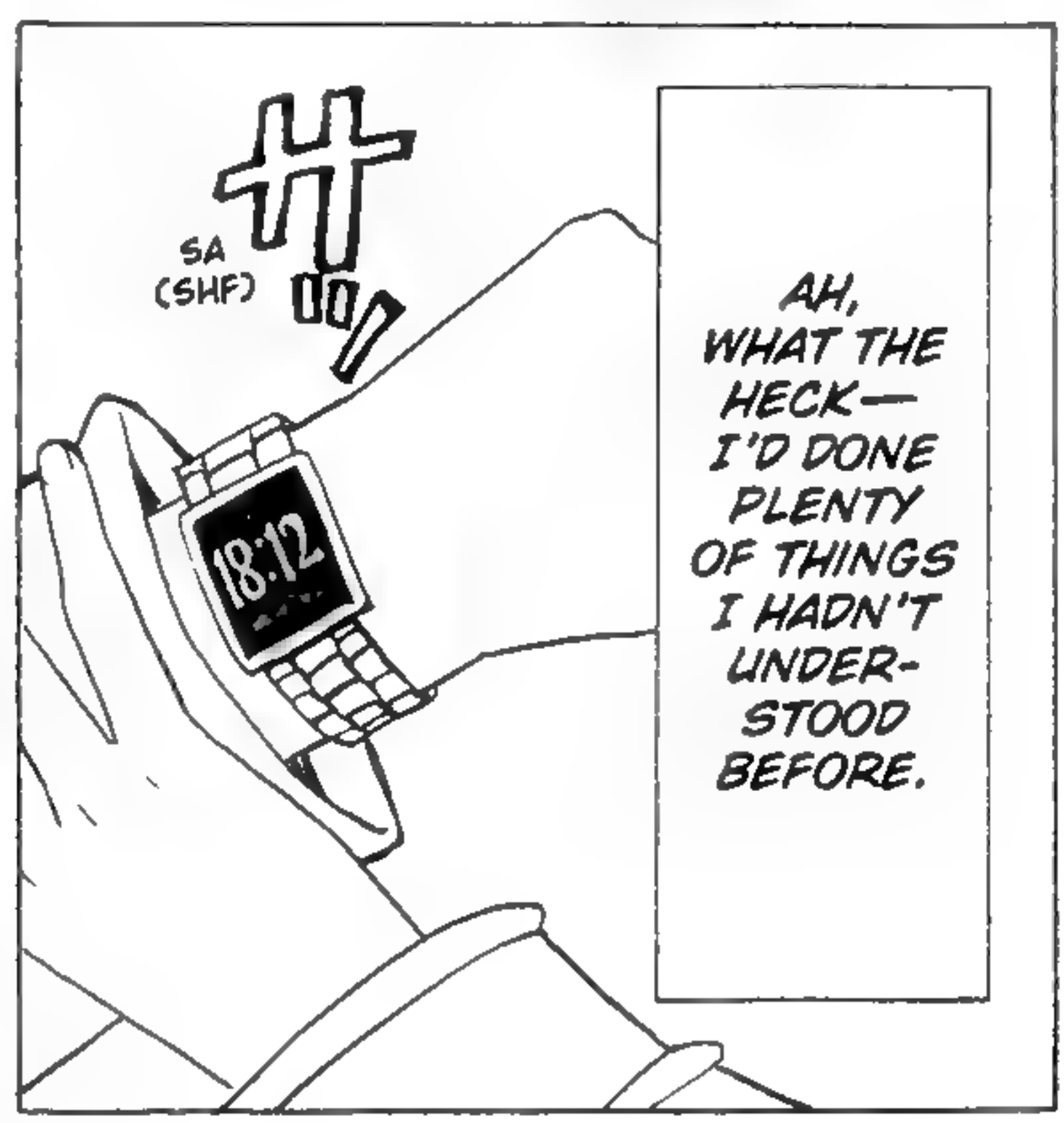
I DON'T KNOW ...
BUT HAVING SEEN IT...

WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT?
THIS? THIS STUPID PRANK? REALLY?

WHAT A PAIN.

NOT THAT I UNDER-STOOD ANY OF IT.

THERE'S HARDLY ANYONE AROUND...



OKAY.

KAPO (POP)

KAN

KAN

KAN (CLANK)

TA (DASH)

WE DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT LONG...

...WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.

...TO SEE...

GAN (CLANG)
BASA
BASA (FLAP)
WHAT THE HELL!? AUGH, THAT HURT!!
GUAAAH!

PROB-ABLY...

WHO WOULD DO THIS?

OWW!

THINK THAT'LL DO IT?

CRAP!

TA (DASH)

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

UH, YEAH, THANK YOU.

HUH?

DO YOU NEED A HAND?

I COULD TELL THE GUY HAD TAKEN A SERIOUS SHOT.

HOW TER-RIBLE.

KAPO (POP)

I'D NEVER SEEN THE GUY BEFORE. HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS IN HIS TWENTIES.

I GOT WHAT I DESERVE.

SORRY ABOUT THIS.

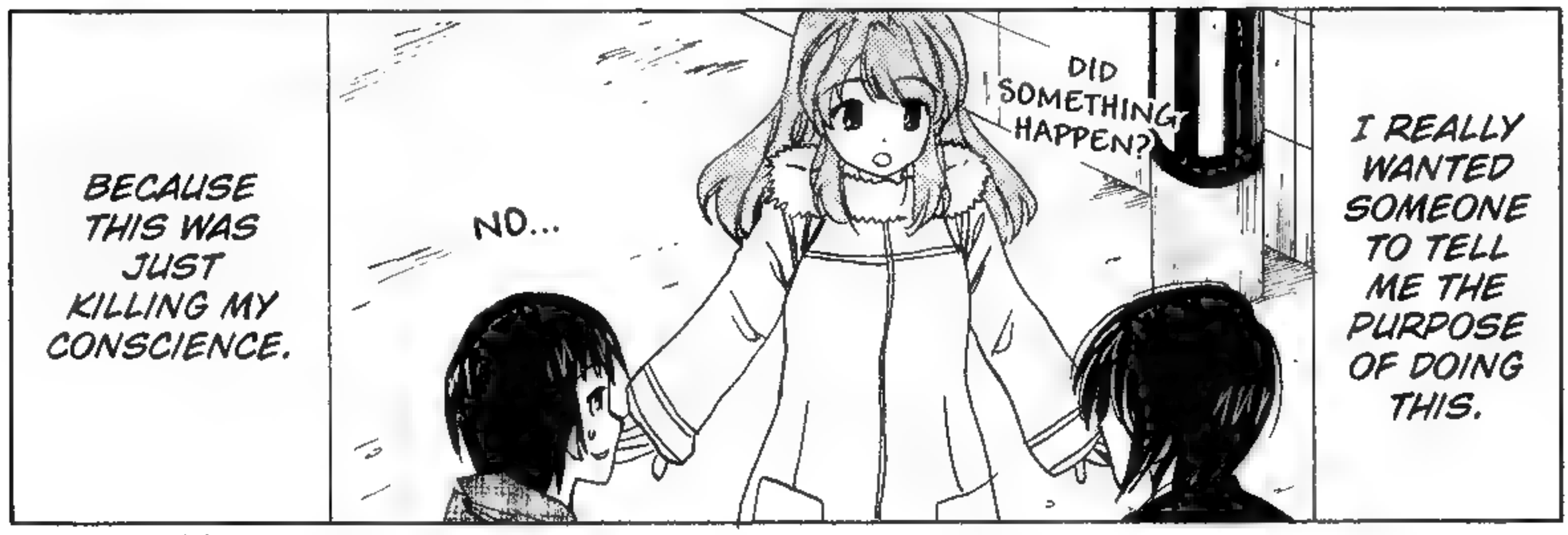
I'VE BEEN KIND OF DEPRESSED, SO IT'S MY FAULT FOR KICKING IT SO HARD.

... INCIDEN-TALLY ...

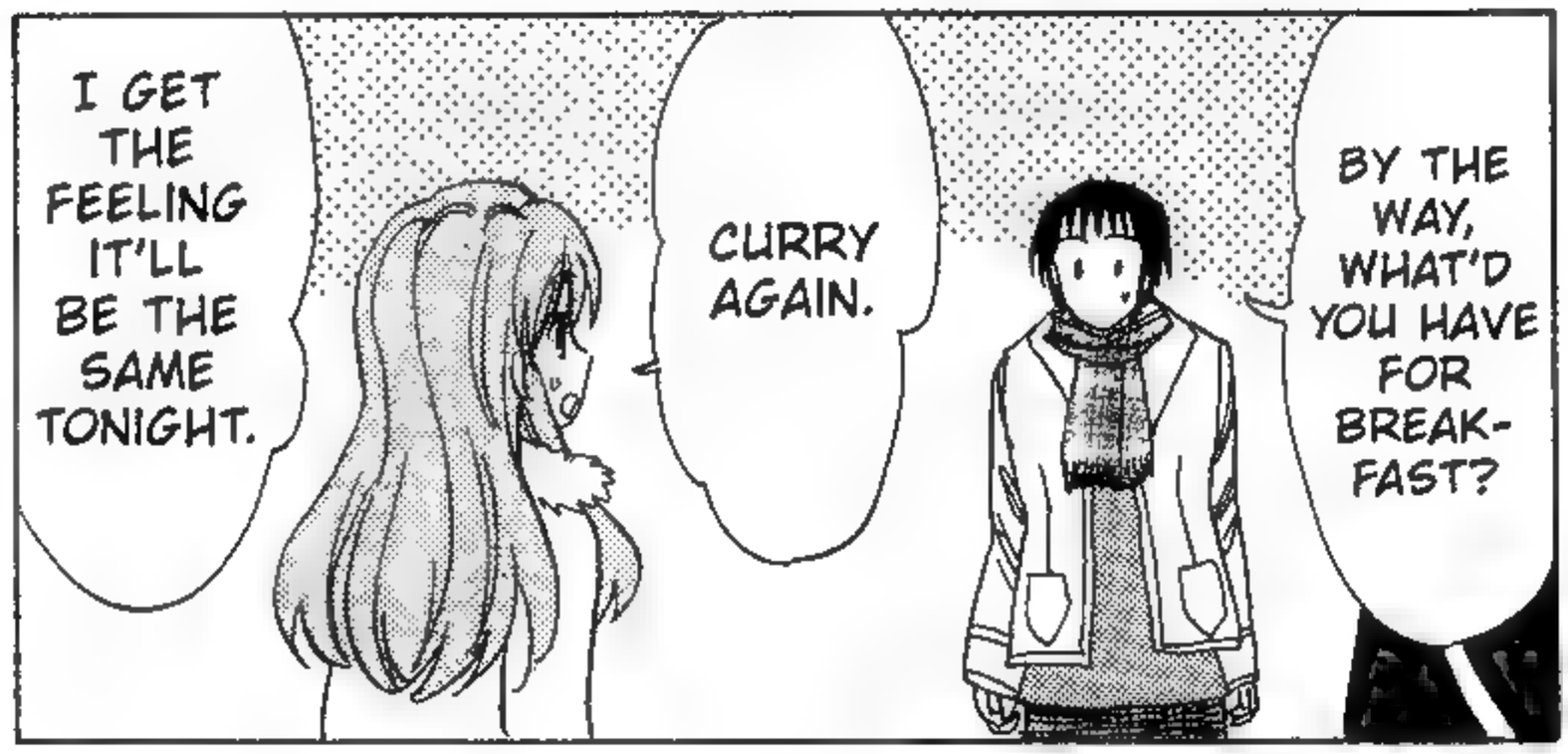
YEAH, I GUESS. WHAT KIND OF NASTY LITTLE KID DOES THAT?

NO, I REALLY THINK IT'S THE FAULT OF WHATEVER JERK PUT THE CAN THERE.

...SHE YOUR GIRLFRIEND?



CAN: CURRY



THE INTRIGUES OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA III : END

THANKS. YOU GUYS REALLY SAVED ME.

NO PROBLEM. WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?

YEAH, NOTHING'S BROKEN.

SEE YA.

IS THAT ALL WE HAVE TO DO?

MMM...

THIS ASAHINA-SAN WAS INNOCENT ...

...SO I HOPE IF HE EVER FINDS OUT THE TRUTH, HE'LL FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO THANK FOR IT.

THIS WAS THE WORST POSSIBLE SITUATION WE COULD BE IN.

I COULD NOT ALLOW HARUHI OR THIS TIME PERIOD'S ASAHINA-SAN TO SEE US TOGETHER.

THERE WAS AN IMPORTANT RESTRICTION ON US.

SHAAAA (WHSHHH)

THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE BESIDES NAGATO'S THAT'LL TAKE YOU IN.
YUP.
UM, IS THIS...
TSURUYA-SAN WILL ALWAYS HELP YOU OUT.
B-BUT ...
...WE CAN'T LET HER KNOW...
PIN (DING)
POON (DONG)
IT'LL BE FINE.
WH-WHA !?
HUH?
I DON'T THINK I'M GOOD ENOUGH AT ACTING TO-!
I'VE GOT AN IDEA ABOUT THAT. HERE, LISTEN ...
ALL RIGHT ...

カラコロ
KARAKORO
(CLATTER)
KARAKORO
BUT I REALIZED THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THAT.
IT'LL BE TOO HARD!
I BET IT WOULD.
IF YOU ACTUALLY HAD TO ACT...
PA (FLASH)
WHAT'S GOING ON AT THIS HOUR?
GOLLY, JUST KYON AND MIKURU!?
I'M PRACTICALLY JEALOUS!
I WAS SURE SHE'D HELP US OUT WITHOUT SAYING ANY-THING... HOPE-FULLY.
MY, DON'T YOU TWO MAKE A FINE COUPLE?
KARAKORO
KARAKORO

THERE ARE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES ...

HARUNYAN'S NOT EVEN WITH YOU?

KORON (CLOP)

KARAN (CLACK)

STILL, THIS IS SUPER-RARE!

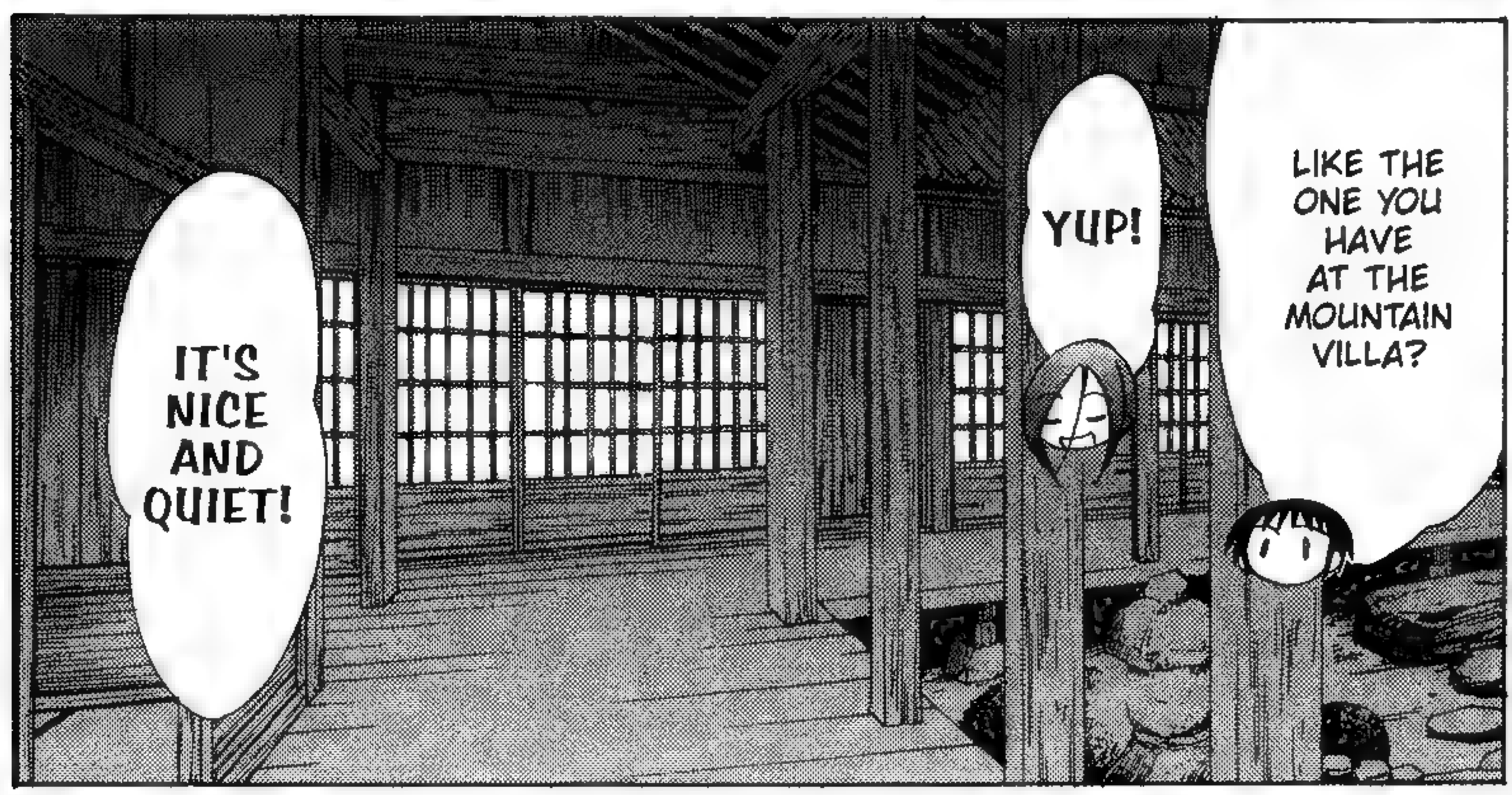
EIGHT DAYS AT THE MOST.
FOR HOW LONG?

PHEW!
THANKS, YOU'RE A REAL LIFE-SAVER.

OH WELL, IT'S FINE.
THERE MUST BE SOME REASON FOR IT.

IT'S JUST A LITTLE STUDIO WHERE I SOMETIMES GO TO THINK ABOUT STUFF.
...SHE CAN JUST USE THE OUT-BUILD-ING.

SURE, I DON'T MIND.
OH, RIGHT ...


IT'S NICE AND QUIET!
YUP!
LIKE THE ONE YOU HAVE AT THE MOUNTAIN VILLA?

HOW WEIRD...

...SOMETHING SEEMS OFF ABOUT HER...

SFX: JIRO (STARE)
JIRO JIRO

じろ じろ じろ

STILL...

GAKKOON (KATHNK)

...ASAHINA-SAN'S TWIN SISTER, MICHIRU ASAHINA!

...SHE'S...

ACTUALLY...

SHIIIN (SILENCE)

...SHE EXISTS.

MIKURU-CHAN DOESN'T KNOW...

THEY WERE SEPARATED AT BIRTH.

MICHIRU-CHAN!?

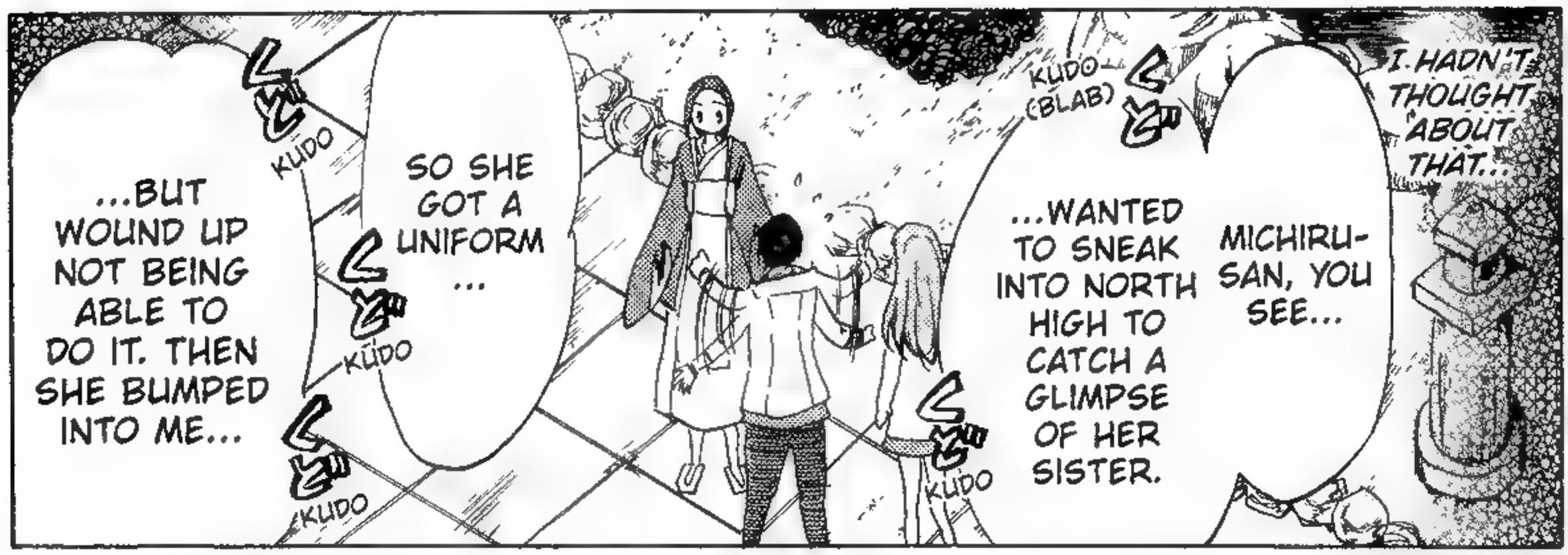
GABIIN (BZZZT)

YUP.

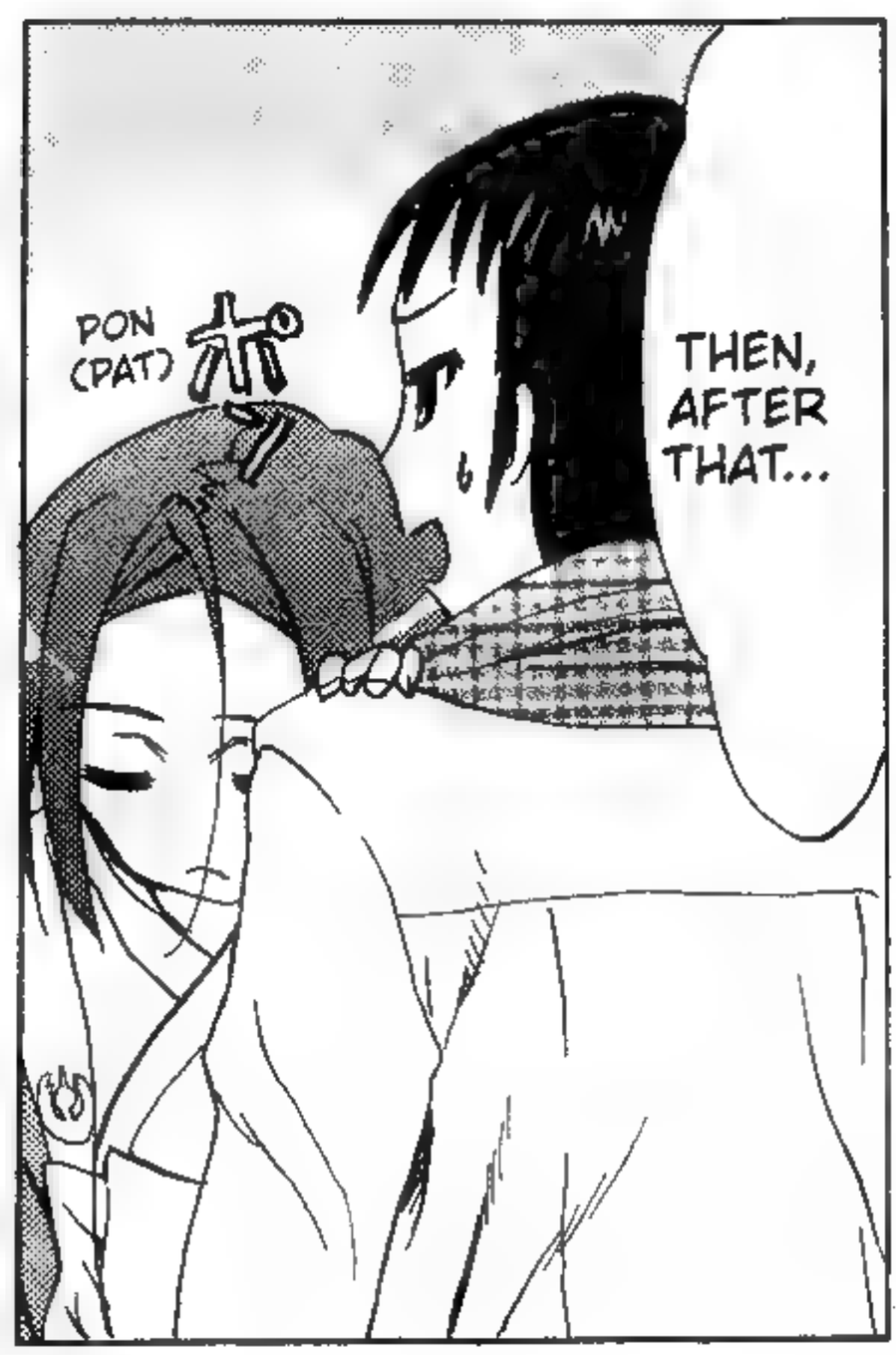
TWIN!? SIS-STER!?

UH...
HOW DO I SAY THIS ...?

HUH.
SO WHY'S SHE WEARING A NORTH HIGH UNIFORM?


...BUT WOUND UP NOT BEING ABLE TO DO IT. THEN SHE BUMPED INTO ME...
KUDO
KUDO
KUDO
SO SHE GOT A UNIFORM ...
KUDO
KUDO
KUDO (BLAB)
...WANTED TO SNEAK INTO NORTH HIGH TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HER SISTER.
MICHIRU-SAN, YOU SEE...
I HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THAT...

IF SHE'S MIKURU'S SISTER, SHE'S PRACTI-CALLY MIKURU.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.


PON (PAT)
THEN, AFTER THAT...

THANK YOU, SERIOUSLY.

ALSO, YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP HER A SECRET FROM ASAHINA-SAN.

BUT OF COURSE!

I'LL GO GET SOME TEA!

RIGHT, ENJOY YOUR-SELVES!

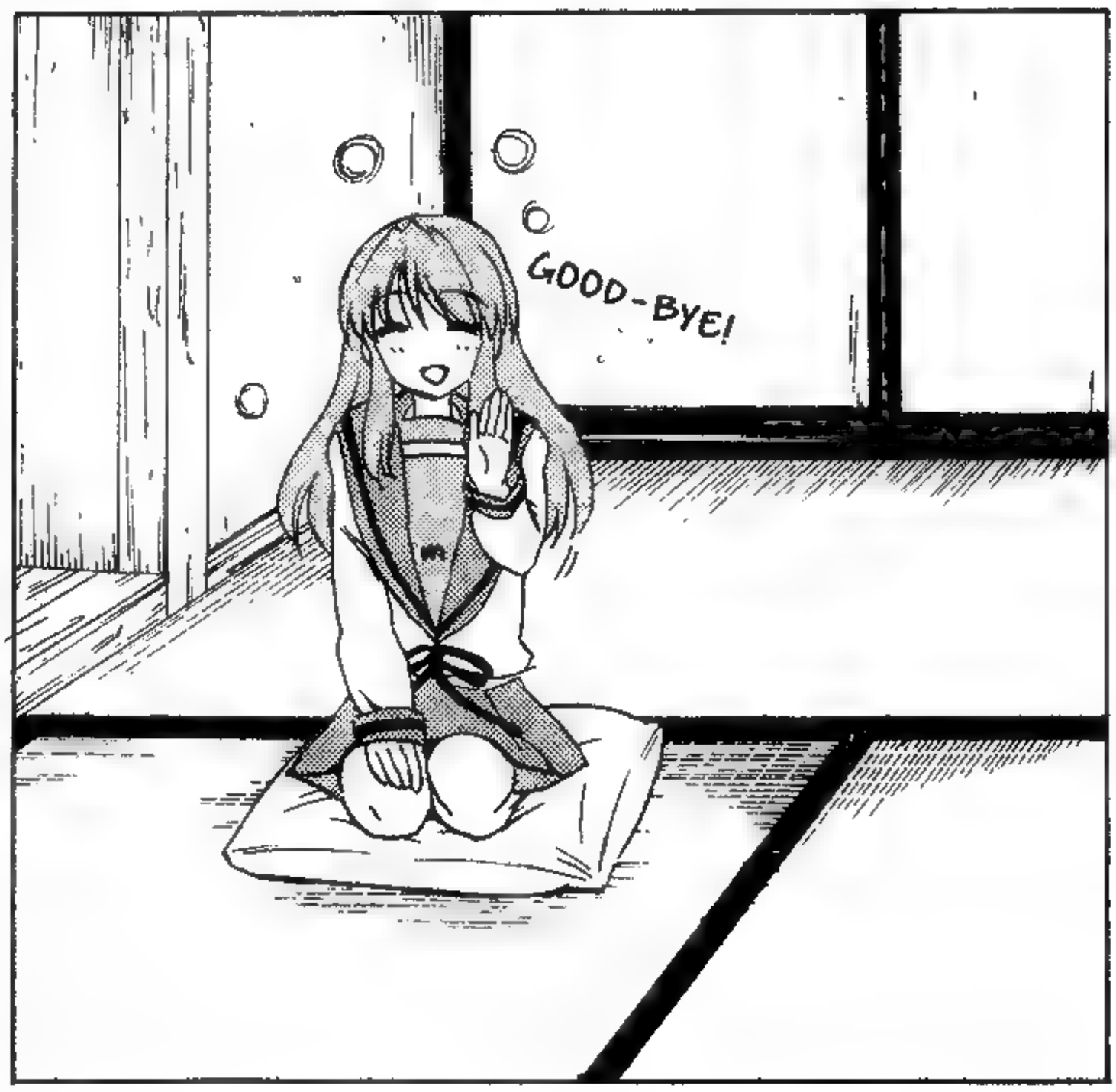
I'LL HAVE TO THANK TSURUYA-SAN TOO.

YES, THANK GOOD-NESS.

THIS SEEMS LIKE IT'LL WORK.

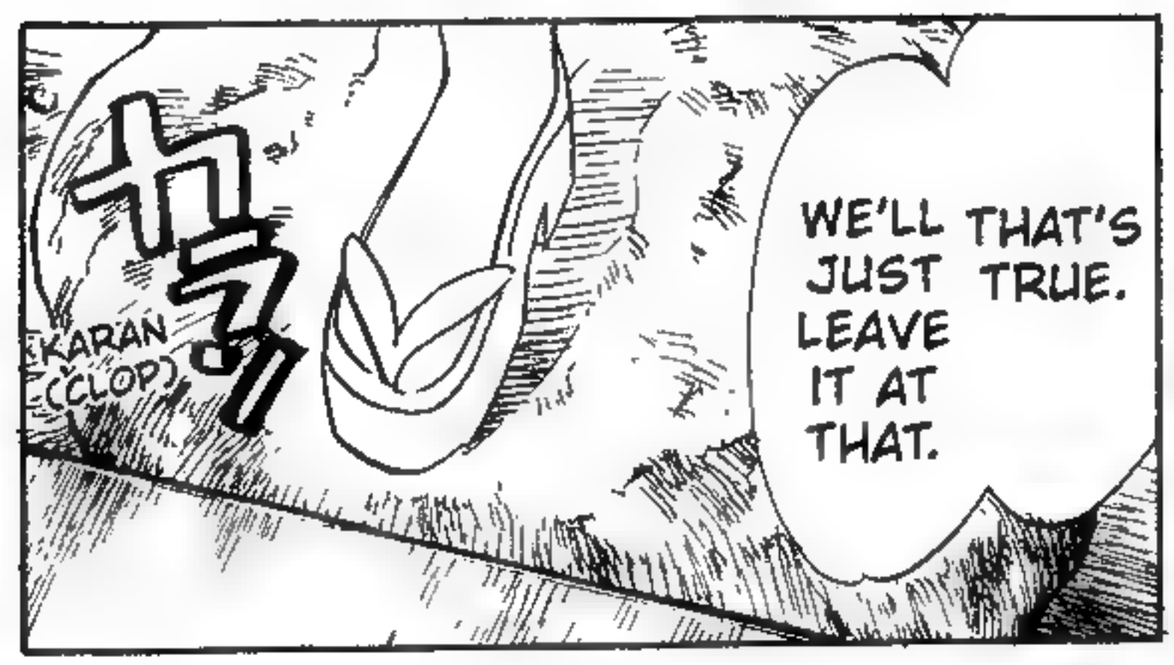
WHEW...

HER OLD SMILE HAD FINALLY RETURNED.

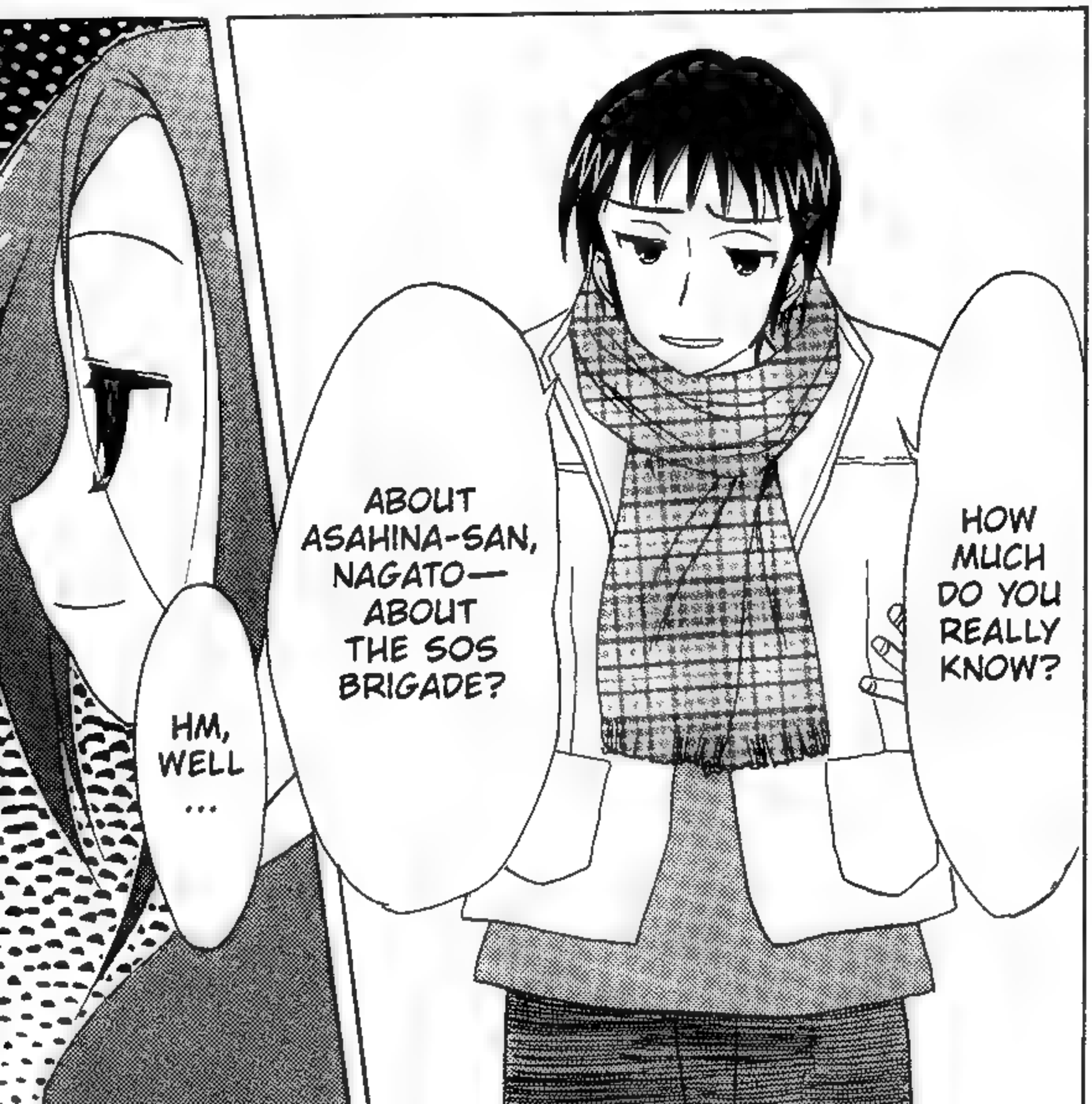


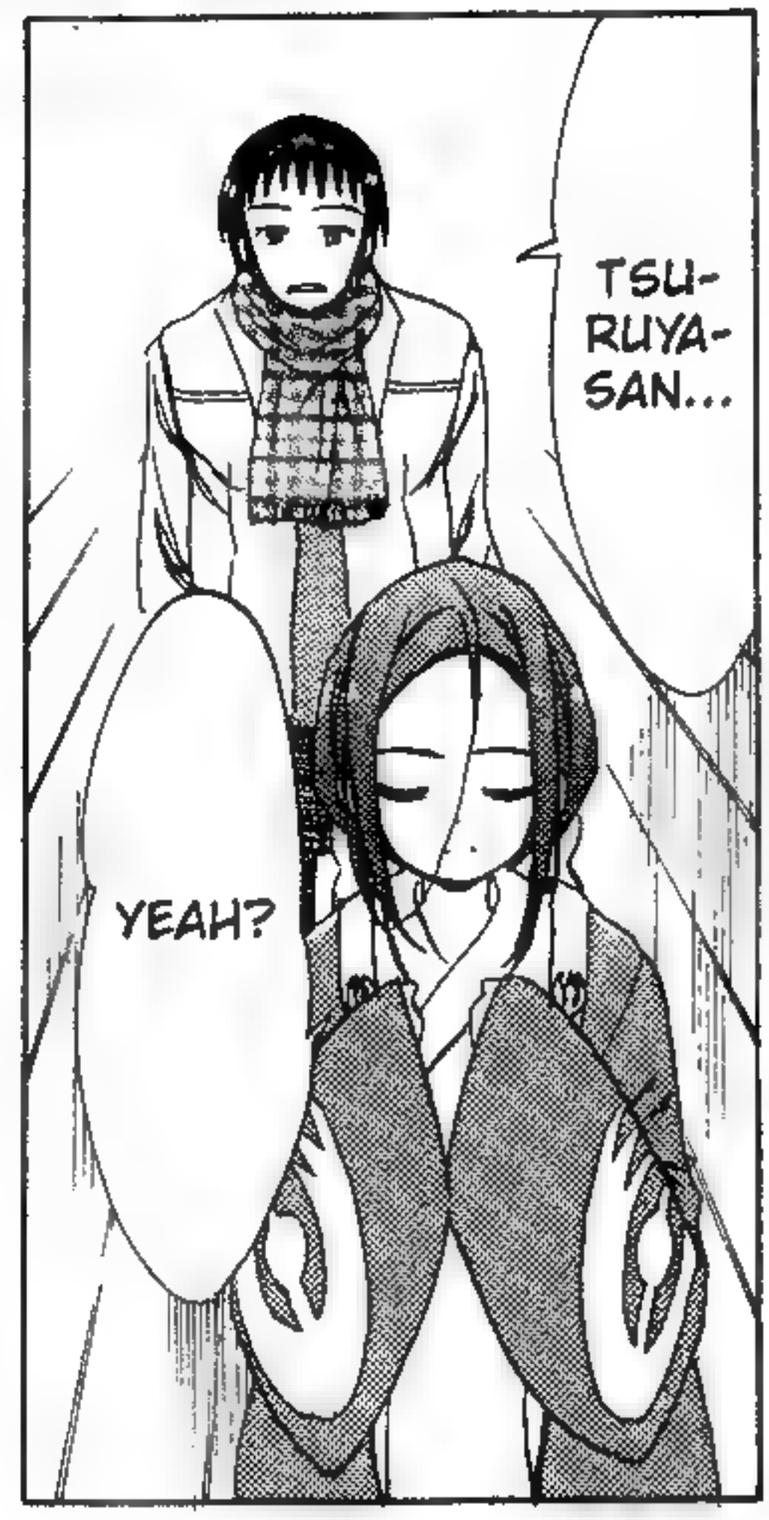
SHE'S NOT THE MIKURU I MET AT SCHOOL TODAY, IS SHE?
OR, LIKE, SHE'S NOT MIKURU BUT SHE SEEMS MIKURU-ISH.

HMM, SHE'S LIKE MIKURU AND YET NOT MIKURU.
ぶー
BU (BFF)


WE'LL JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT.
THAT'S TRUE.
カラン
KARAN (CLOP)

I ALREADY EX-PLAINED, SENPAI, SHE'S A TWIN.
あはは
AH HA HA HA!


HM, WELL ...
ABOUT ASAHINA-SAN, NAGATO— ABOUT THE SOS BRIGADE?
HOW MUCH DO YOU REALLY KNOW?


YEAH?
TSU-RUYA-SAN...

JUST THAT THEY'RE KINDA... DIFFERENT.
OR AT LEAST... NOT NORMAL.
NOT AS MUCH AS YOU, KYON-KUN.
BWA HA HA!
WHY IS THAT?
BUT YOU'RE NOT ASKING ANY PRYING QUESTIONS OR ANY-THING...
THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH.
SO WATCHING YOU GUYS IS A BLAST!
BECAUSE YOU'RE HAVING SO MUCH FUN, Y'KNOW?
I JUST REALLY LIKE WATCH-ING PEOPLE HAVE FUN!

JUST WATCHING'S ENOUGH FOR ME.

...BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE A DIRECTOR MYSELF.

LIKE, I THINK MOVIES ARE SUPER-COOL...

...JUST DOING THAT FEELS REALLY GREAT.

WATCHING THEM OUT THERE, REALLY GIVING IT THEIR ALL...

BAN (WHAM)

SO I JUST DO THE STUFF I CAN DO!

BUT I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR IT MYSELF!

I LIKE BEING ABLE TO WATCH YOU GUYS FROM THE SIDE-LINES!

AND I LIKE MY POSITION.

FIVE PEOPLE IS JUST THE RIGHT NUMBER.

I THINK HARU-NYAN UNDER-STANDS TOO.

THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY IS RIDING ON YOUR SHOUL-DERS!

SO HANG IN THERE, KYON-KUN, BUDDY!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO FIGURE OUT EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD, Y'KNOW?

I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL ALREADY.

... MAKE SURE YOU ALWAYS WATCH MIKU-RU'S BACK!
STILL ...
HIII (WHEEZE) HIII
AH HA HA!
THIS IS JUST A GUESS, BUT I BET SHE'LL FORGIVE YOU.
HA-HA... ARE YOU SERI-OUS?
IF YOU'RE GONNA PLAY TRICKS, PLAY 'EM ON HARU-NYAN!
BUT NO FUNNY BUSINESS!

IN A WAY, SHE WAS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF HARUHI.

WHEN HARUHI SAW SOMETHING SHE THOUGHT WAS INTER-ESTING...

...SHE JUST HAD TO BUTT IN AND GIVE IT A TRY.

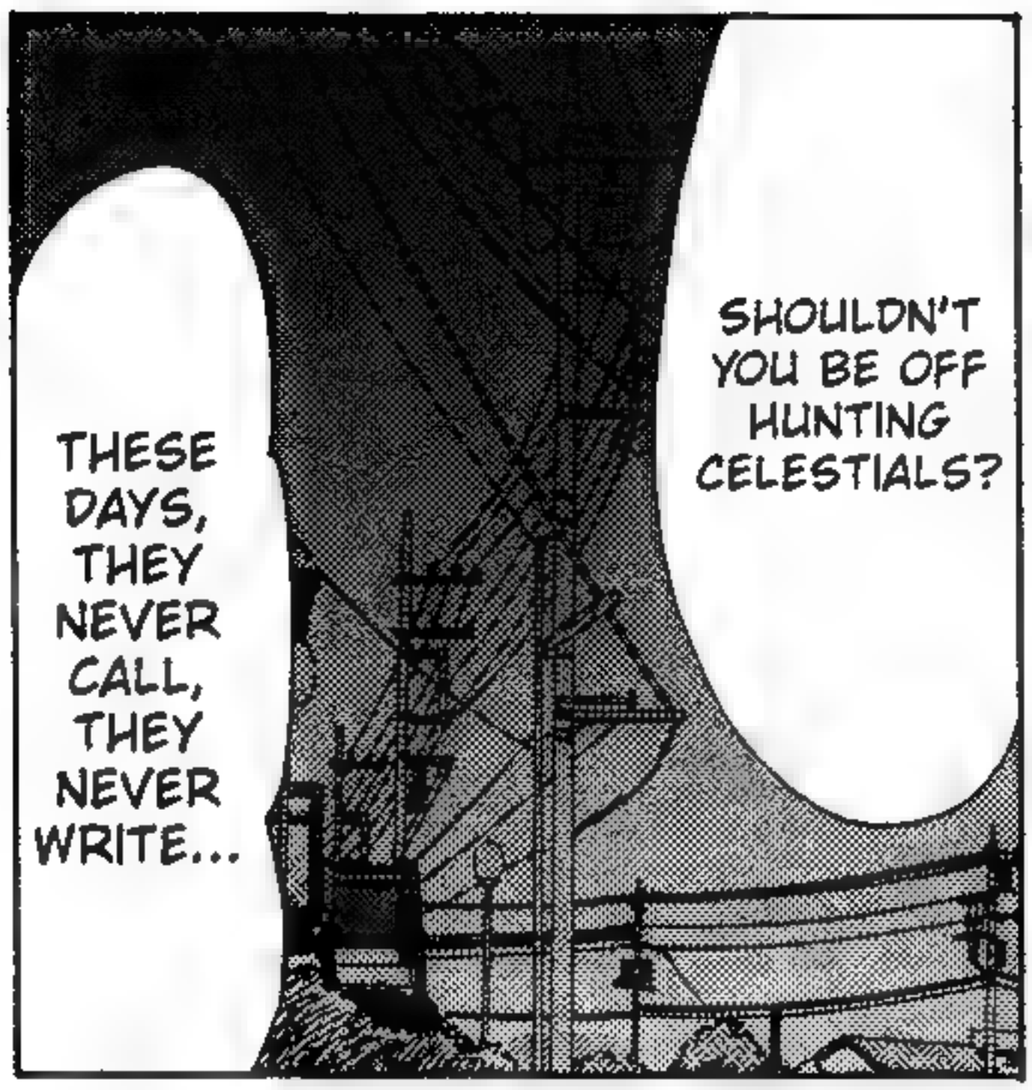
YOU'RE JUST WAITING IN THE STREET AT NIGHT?

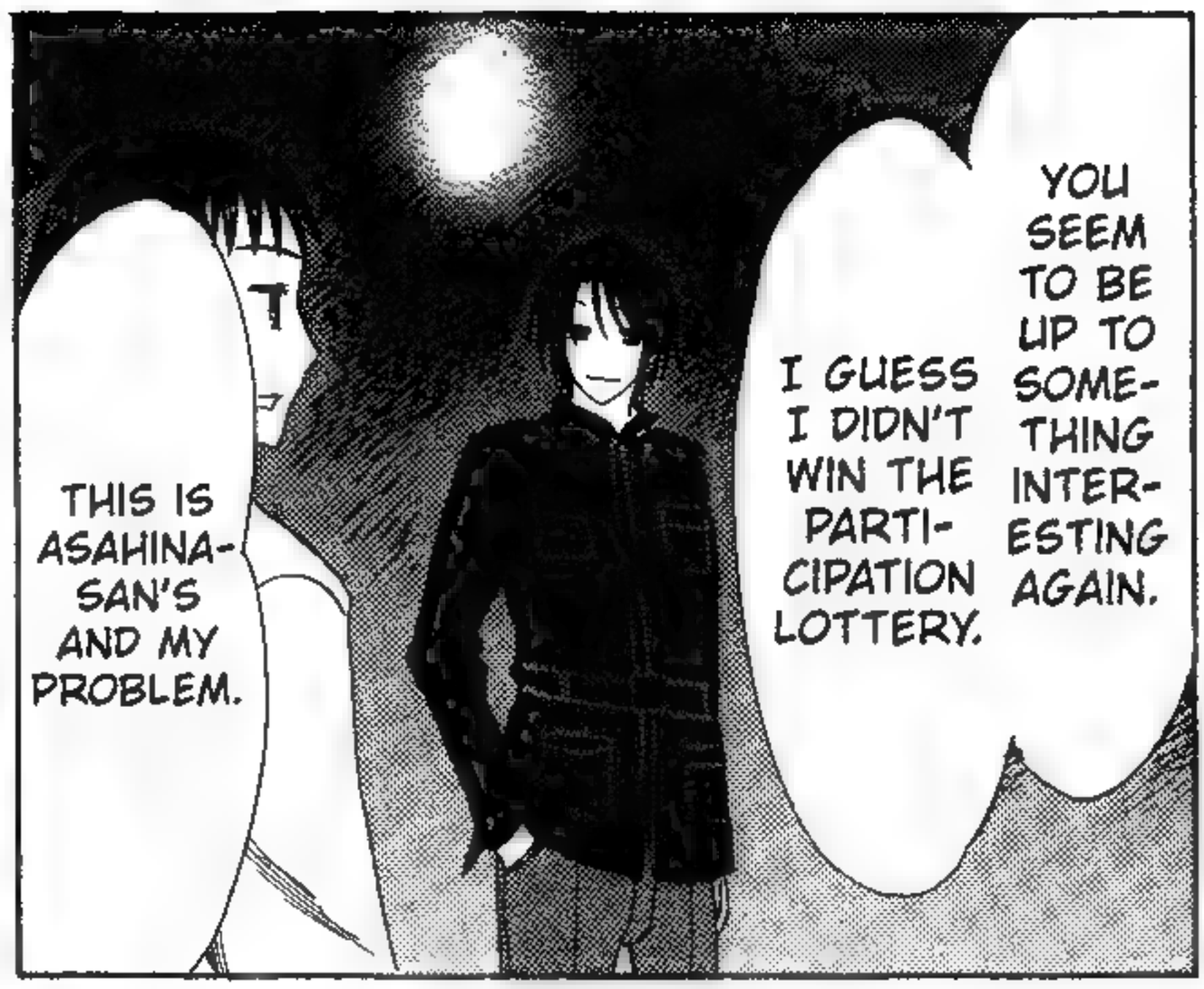
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO...

...AT THIS HOUR ?

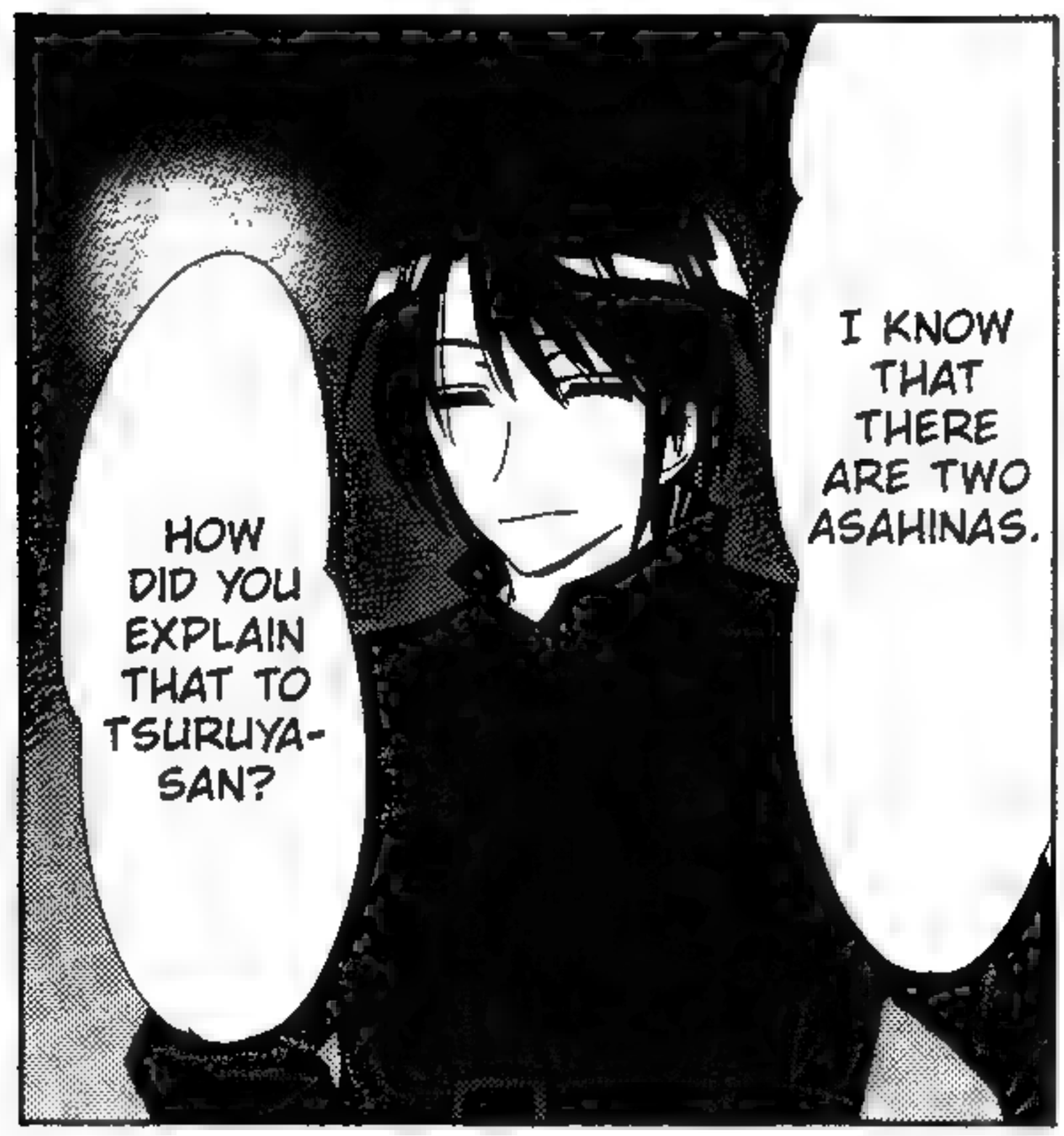
GOOD EVE-NING.

HEY, WHAT A COINCI-DENCE.


SHOULDN'T YOU BE OFF HUNTING CELESTIALS?
THESE DAYS, THEY NEVER CALL, THEY NEVER WRITE...


YOU SEEM TO BE UP TO SOMETHING INTERESTING AGAIN.
I GUESS I DIDN'T WIN THE PARTICIPATION LOTTERY.
THIS IS ASAHINA-SAN'S AND MY PROBLEM.

INCIDENTALLY, I CAN'T SAY I AGREE WITH YOUR INVOLVING TSURUYA-SAN IN THIS.
THOUGH IT'S TRUE THERE'S NO SAFER PLACE THAN HERE.


I KNOW THAT THERE ARE TWO ASAHINAS.
HOW DID YOU EXPLAIN THAT TO TSURUYA-SAN?

.....
HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

NOT THAT IT WOULD'VE MATTERED.

OF COURSE I DIDN'T.

SURELY YOU DIDN'T TELL HER THE TRUTH.

TWINS, I SUPPOSE?

ORIGINALLY WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO ENCOUNTER HER AT ALL.

SHE'S ACTUALLY NOT RELATED TO THIS.

MY SUPERIORS HAVE WARNED ME NOT TO INTERFERE WITH TSURUYA.

THOSE ARE THE RULES BY WHICH THE AGENCY AND THE TSURUYA CLAN CONDUCT THEIR RELATION-SHIP.

AND IN EXCHANGE, SHE IS NO MORE INVOLVED WITH US THAN NECESSARY.

WE DO NOT INTERFERE WITH HER.

SHE'S AN ORDINARY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.

SHE COMMUTES TO THE SAME SCHOOL WE DO, AND SHE LIVES IN A BIG HOUSE...

DON'T JUST CASUALLY DROP A CRAZY BACKSTORY LIKE THAT...

TSURUYA-SAN... I REALLY, REALLY WANT TO KNOW...

...WHAT IS SHE?

MEANWHILE, SHE MIGHT BE FIGHTING THE FORCES OF EVIL SOMEWHERE.

BUT THAT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH US.

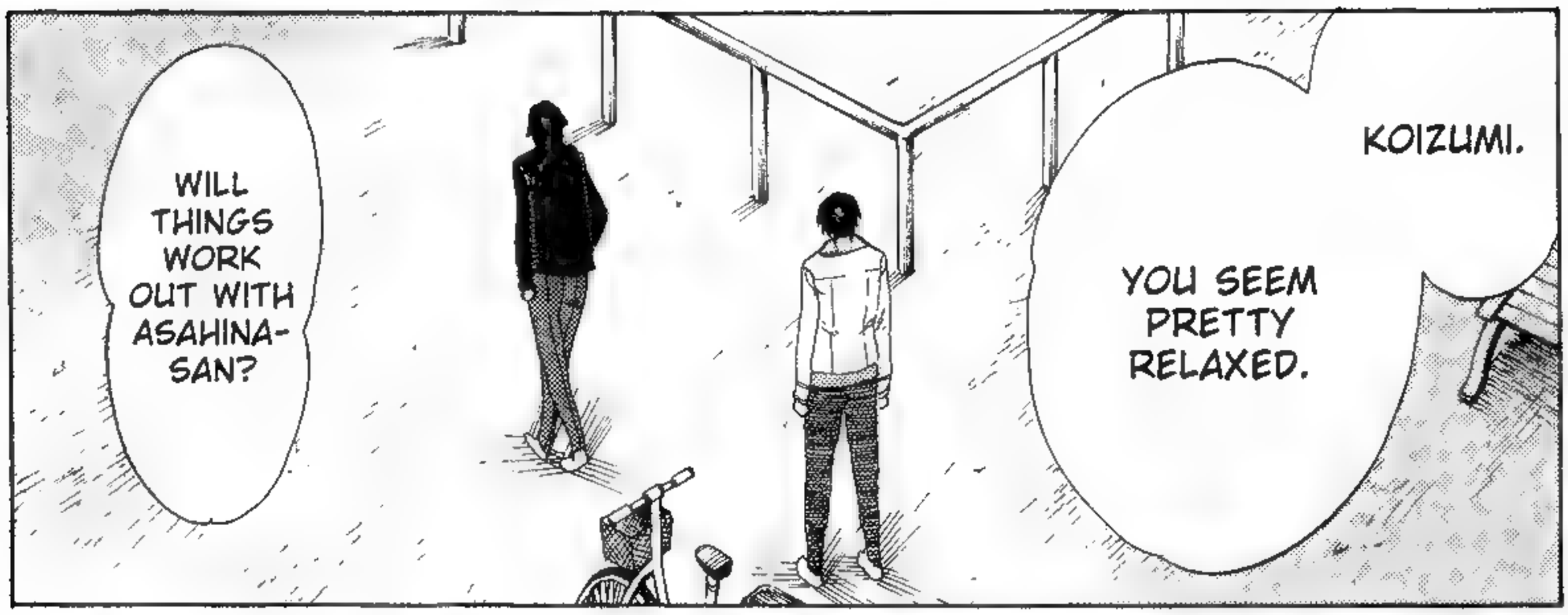
THE SOS BRIGADE'S FAITHFUL ADVISER.

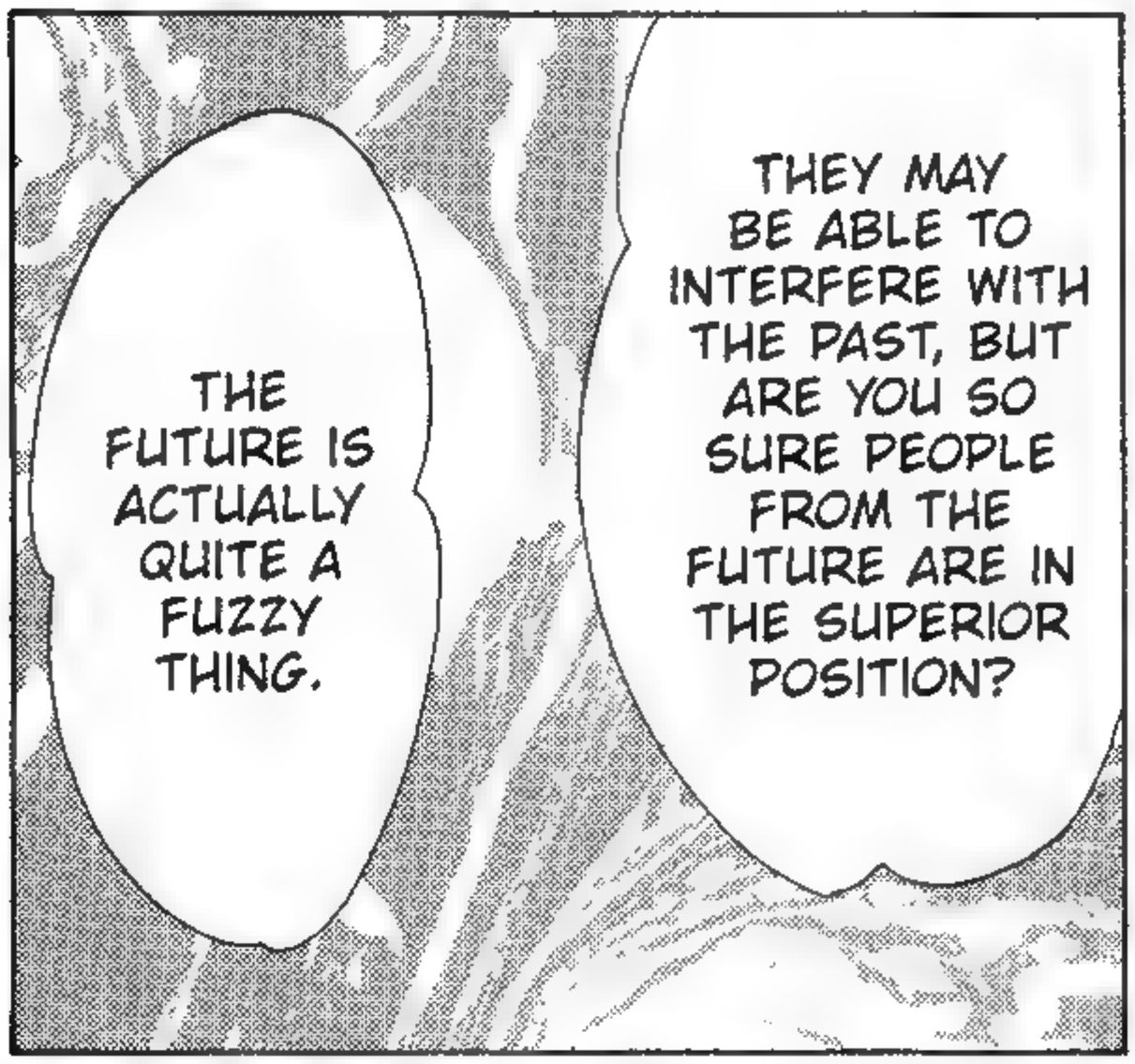
THAT WAS STILL THE BEST WAY TO THINK ABOUT HER.

BUT WHAT A COINCIDENCE...

...WERE THERE PARTS OF THE PAST THAT EVEN TIME TRAVELERS DIDN'T KNOW?

JUST LIKE HARUHI IS A MYSTERY TO THEM?


WILL THINGS WORK OUT WITH ASAHINA-SAN?
KOIZUMI.
YOU SEEM PRETTY RELAXED.


THE FUTURE IS ACTUALLY QUITE A FUZZY THING.
THEY MAY BE ABLE TO INTERFERE WITH THE PAST, BUT ARE YOU SO SURE PEOPLE FROM THE FUTURE ARE IN THE SUPERIOR POSITION?

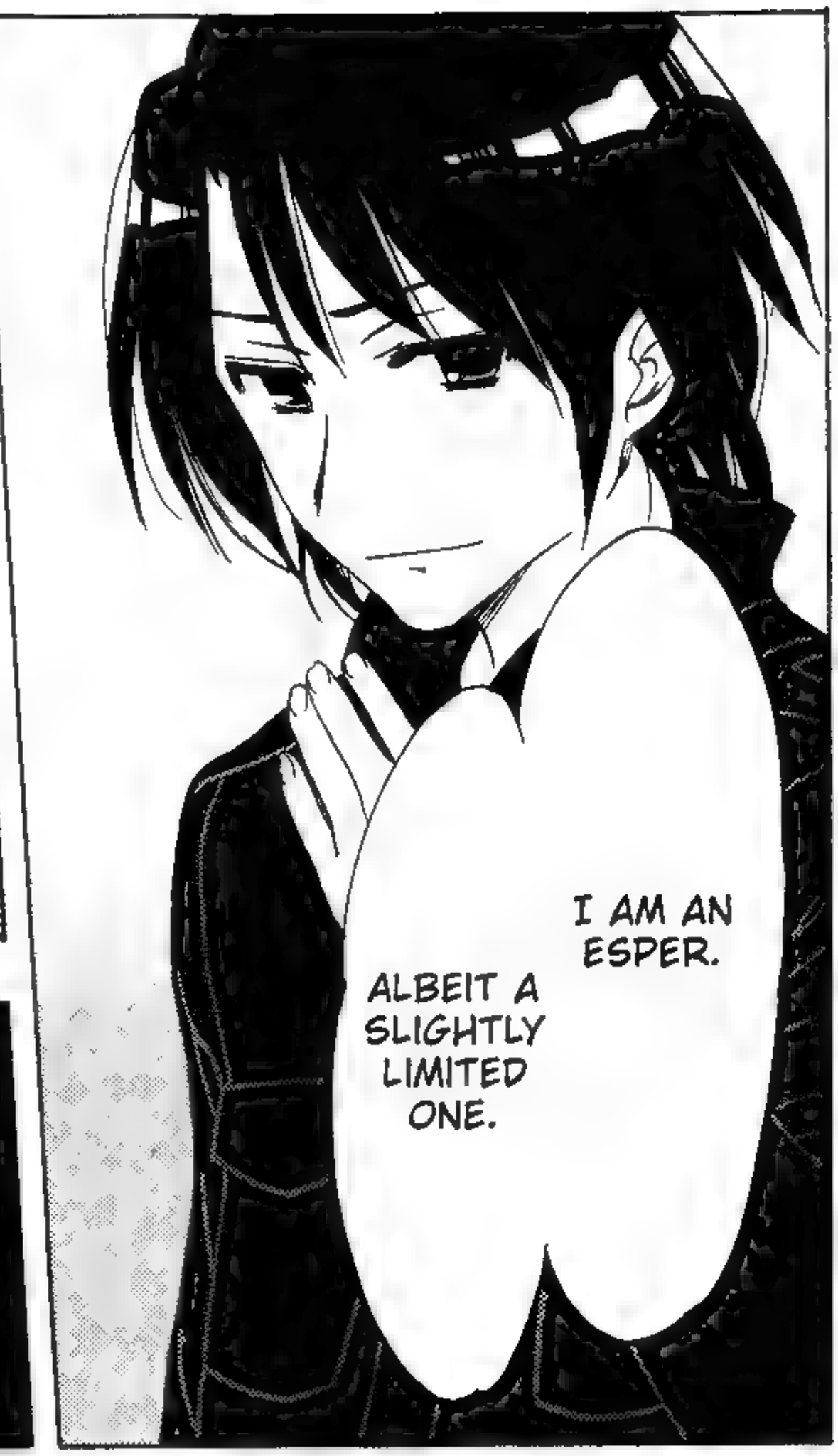
THE FUTURE CAN BE CHANGED, YOU SEE.

KNOW... THE FUTURE?

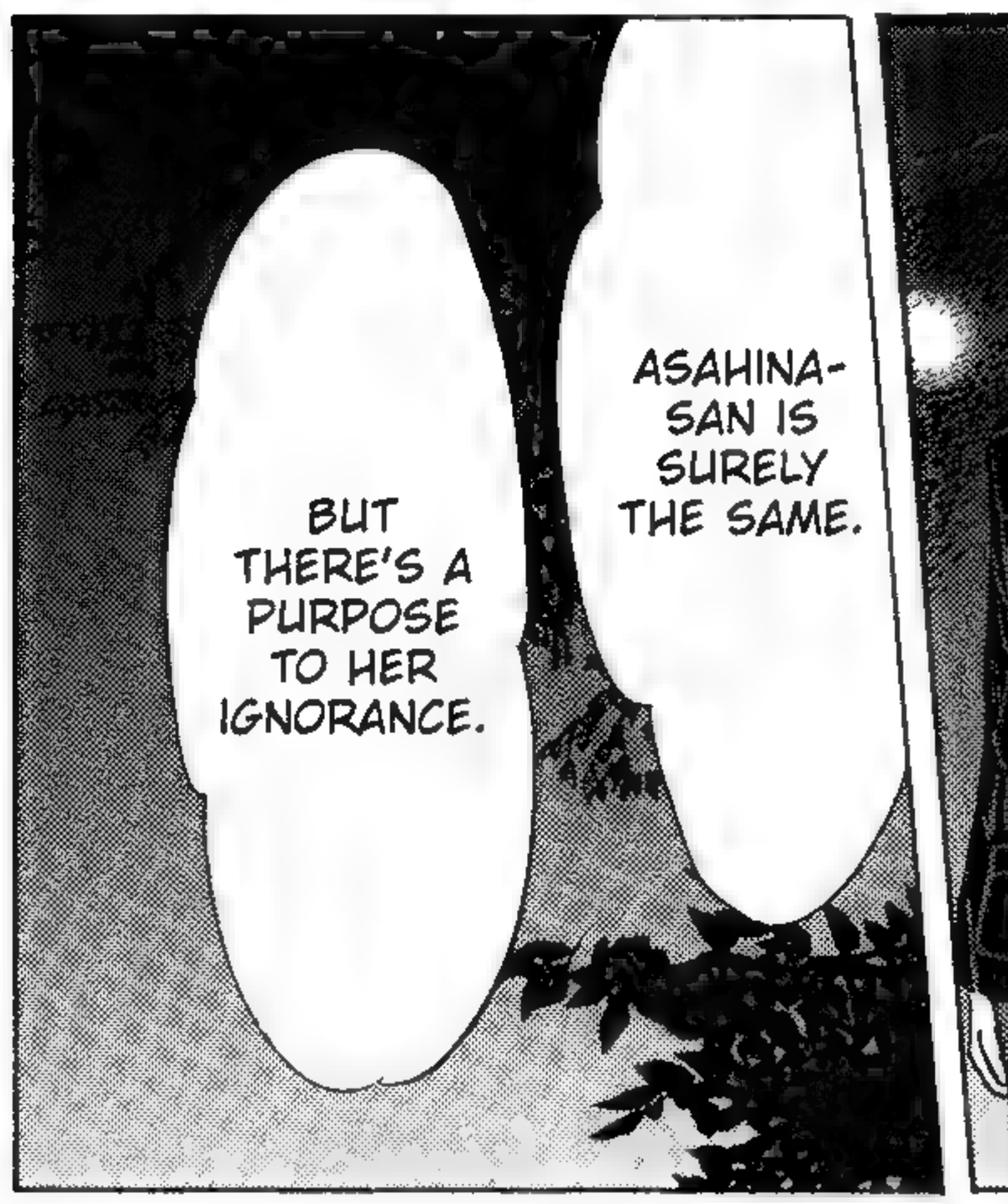
IF YOU'D KNOWN THE FUTURE IN ADVANCE, THAT IS.
YOU COULD HAVE DONE THE SAME THING FROM THE PAST.

JUST LIKE I'VE DONE.
BUT IF YOU KNOW PAST HISTORY AND CAN TRAVEL THROUGH IT, YOU CAN CHANGE IT.

...LIKE ONES ABLE TO SEE THE FUTURE?
SO HOW CAN WE SAY FOR CERTAIN THAT THERE AREN'T MORE STRAIGHT-FORWARD SUPER-HUMANS...


I AM AN ESPER.
ALBEIT A SLIGHTLY LIMITED ONE.

YOU SON OF A...

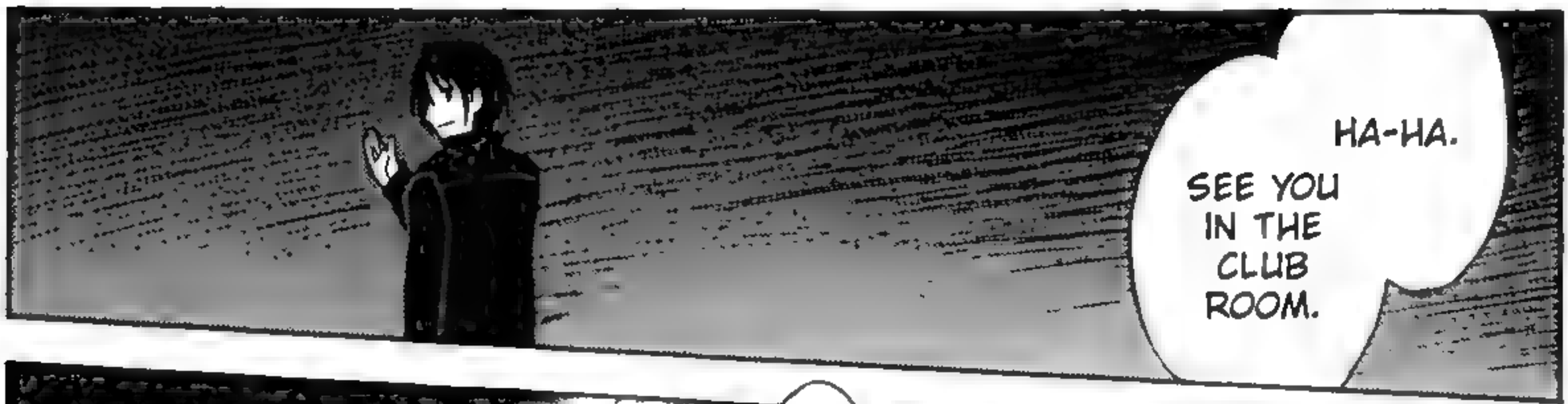

ASAHINA-SAN IS SURELY THE SAME.
BUT THERE'S A PURPOSE TO HER IGNORANCE.

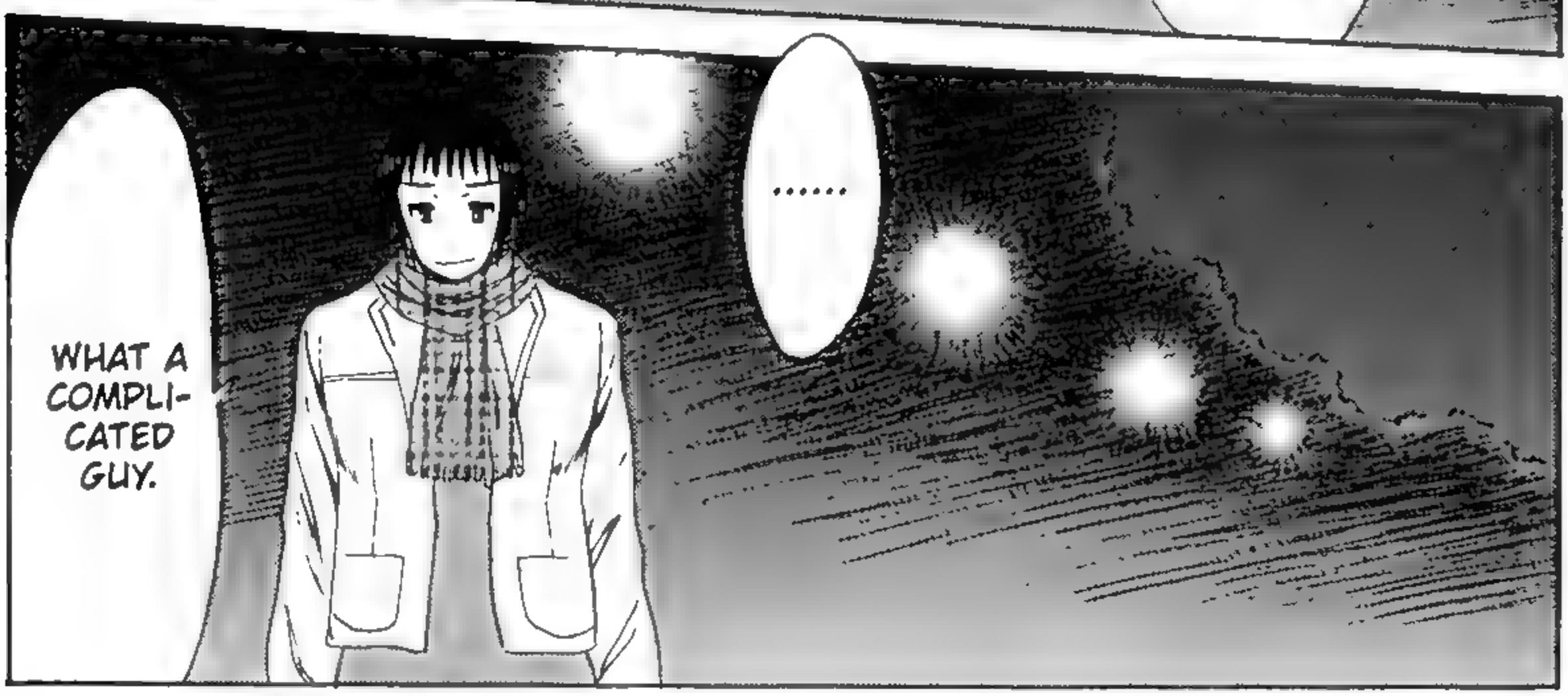
TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, I DON'T KNOW.
I'M AN UNDERLING, AFTER ALL.

WHICH IS WHY THE AGENCY DOESN'T GET INVOLVED.
THAT'S PROBABLY THEIR AIM.
IN A WAY, YOU COULD SAY SHE'S A PERFECT TIME RESIDENT.
I DON'T FEEL ANY THREAT FROM HER AT THE MOMENT, BUT WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, I'M SURE SHE'LL FOLLOW HER ORDERS.
IT'S A DEFENSIVE MEASURE ON THE PART OF THE FUTURE.
IT WOULD BE PROBLEMATIC IF THE FUTURE COULD BE GUESSED AT FROM HER EXISTENCE.
IF I HAD TO SUM IT UP, I'D SAY WE'RE AT AN IMPASSE.
I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR.
SO, WHAT ...?
YOU GUYS OPPOSE ASAHINA-SAN'S PEOPLE?

JUST AS PEOPLE, WHEN THINGS LIKE "DUTY" AND "MISSION" NO LONGER MATTER.

I HOPE THE DAY COMES WHEN WE'LL BE FRIENDS ON A PERFECTLY EQUAL FOOTING AND WE'LL BE ABLE TO LAUGH ABOUT THE PAST.





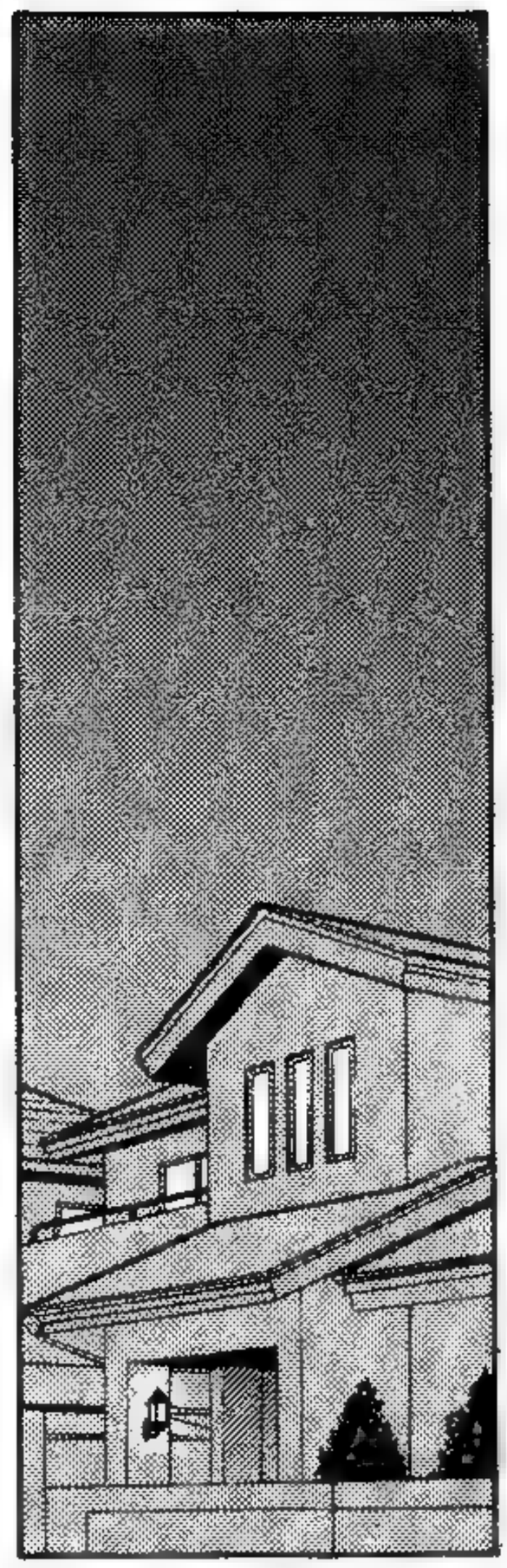
GACHA (CLICK) ガチャ

WELCOME HOME!

A MESSAGE GIVEN TO ME BY (THE FUTURE) ASAHINA-SAN...

BUT THERE WAS ONE MORE THING I HAD TO PASS ON.

IT FELT LIKE I'D BEEN RUNNING ERRANDS ALL DAY.



I GAVE HER THE HIGH-LIGHTS.

SHE PROBABLY ALREADY KNEW THEM.

HEY, NAGATO. IT'S ME.

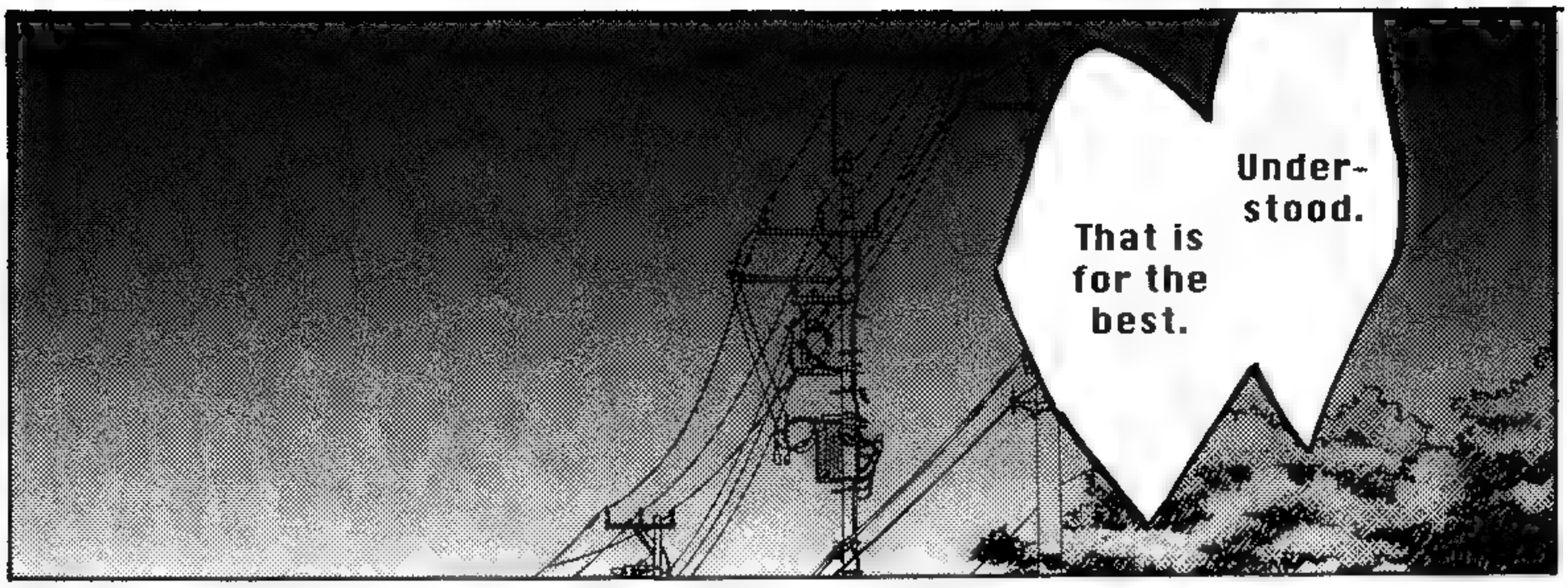
I'LL KEEP IT BRIEF.

ABOUT ASAHINA-SAN...

RRR

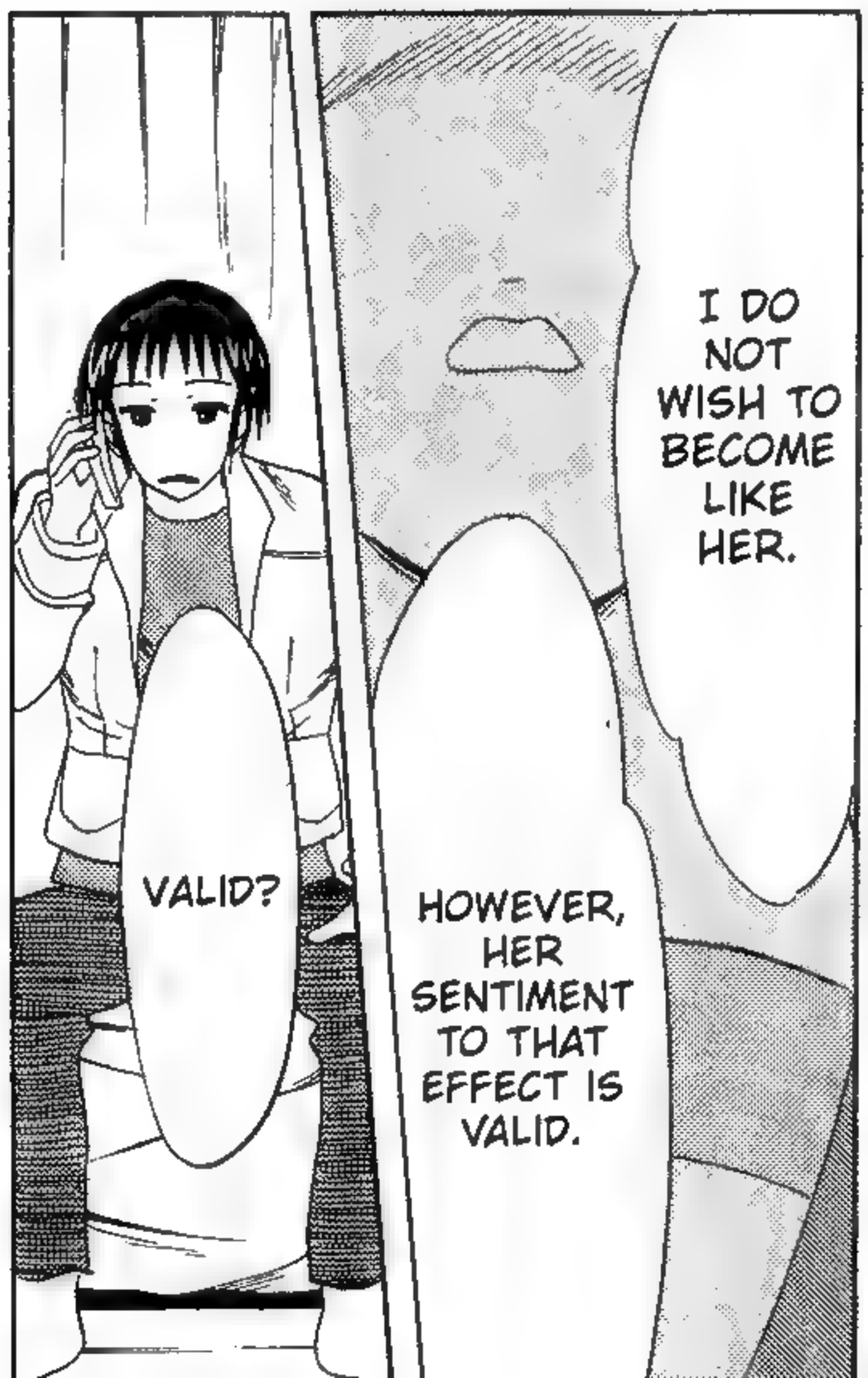
GACHA

I ALSO HAD TO LET HER KNOW I'D MOVED ASAHINA TO TSURUYA'S PLACE.


That is for the best.
Under-stood.

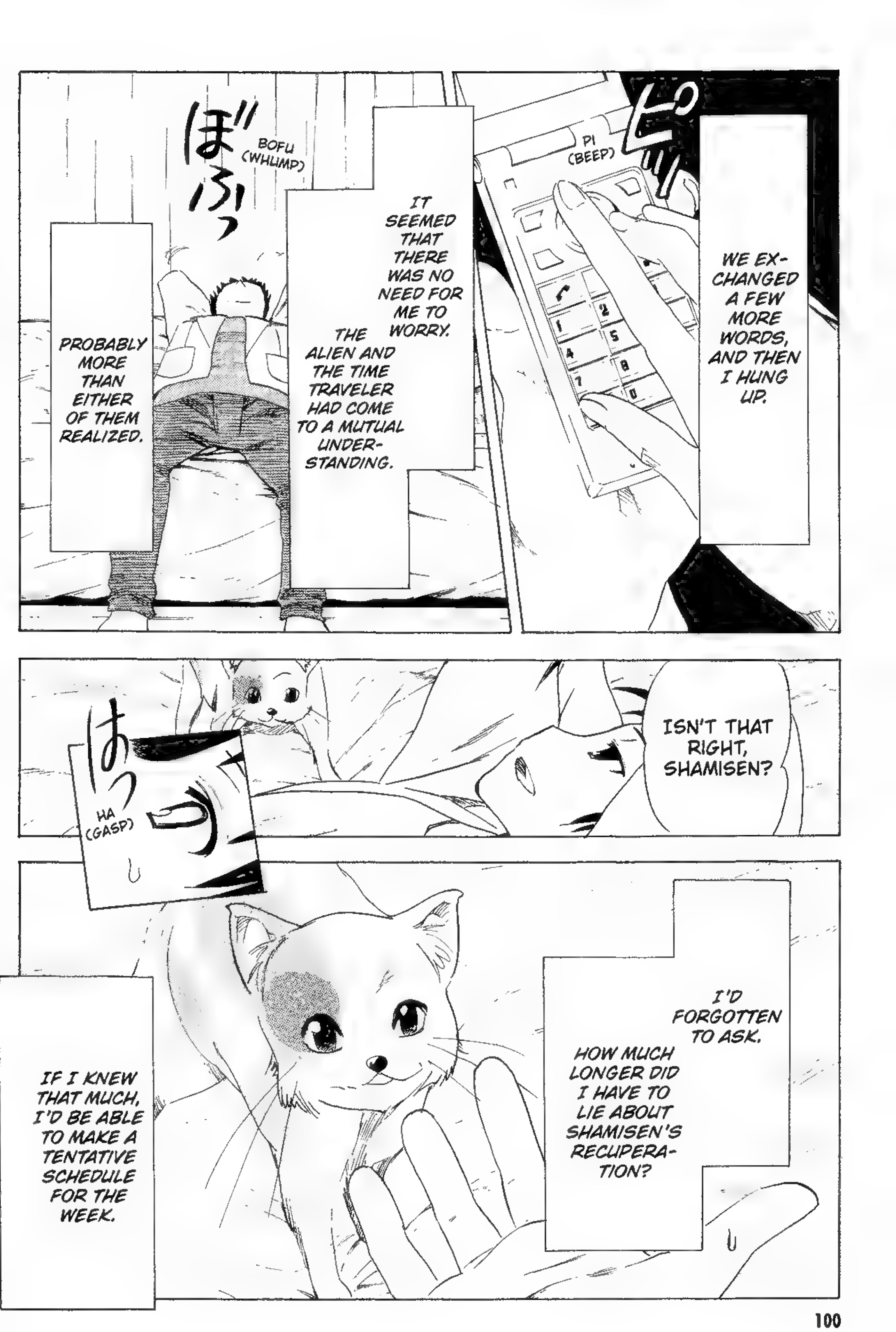
WE JUST DECIDED TO RELY ON YOU, THEN DECIDED TO LEAVE, WITHOUT EVER ASKING HOW YOU FELT.
I JUST FELT BAD FOR YOU, IS ALL.

Why?
REALLY?
THAT'S A RELIEF.


VALID?
I DO NOT WISH TO BECOME LIKE HER.
HOWEVER, HER SENTIMENT TO THAT EFFECT IS VALID.

NEED-LESS WORRY.
I CAN UNDERSTAND HER POSITION.

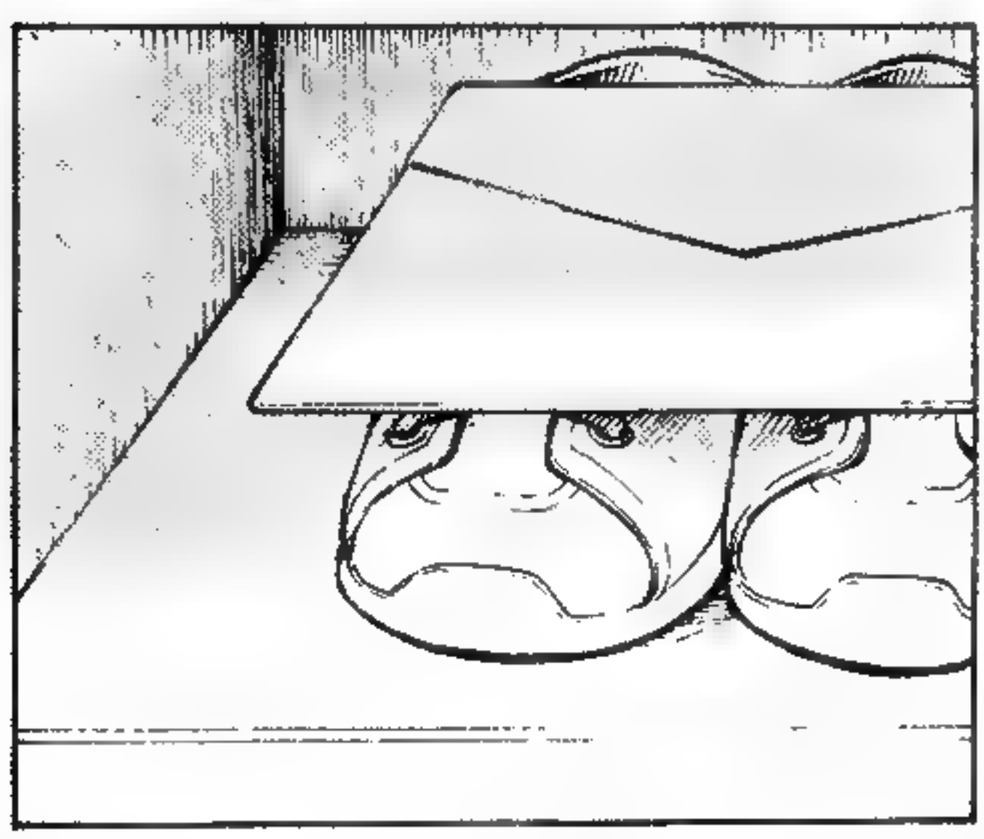
IF I WERE IN HER POSITION, I MIGHT HAVE COME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION.


BOFU (WHUMP)
PROBABLY MORE THAN EITHER OF THEM REALIZED.
IT SEEMED THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ME TO WORRY.
THE ALIEN AND THE TIME TRAVELER HAD COME TO A MUTUAL UNDER-STANDING.
PI (BEEP)
WE EX-CHANGED A FEW MORE WORDS, AND THEN I HUNG UP.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SHAMISEN?
HA (GASP)
IF I KNEW THAT MUCH, I'D BE ABLE TO MAKE A TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK.
HOW MUCH LONGER DID I HAVE TO LIE ABOUT SHAMISEN'S RECUPERA-TION?
I'D FORGOTTEN TO ASK.

I MANAGED NOT TO MAKE ANY MORE PHONE CALLS THAT NIGHT.

I COULD'VE CALLED TSURUYA-SAN, BUT AFTER MY CONVERSATION WITH KOIZUMI...

THE FUTURE ASAHINA-SAN DIDN'T HAVE A CELL PHONE.

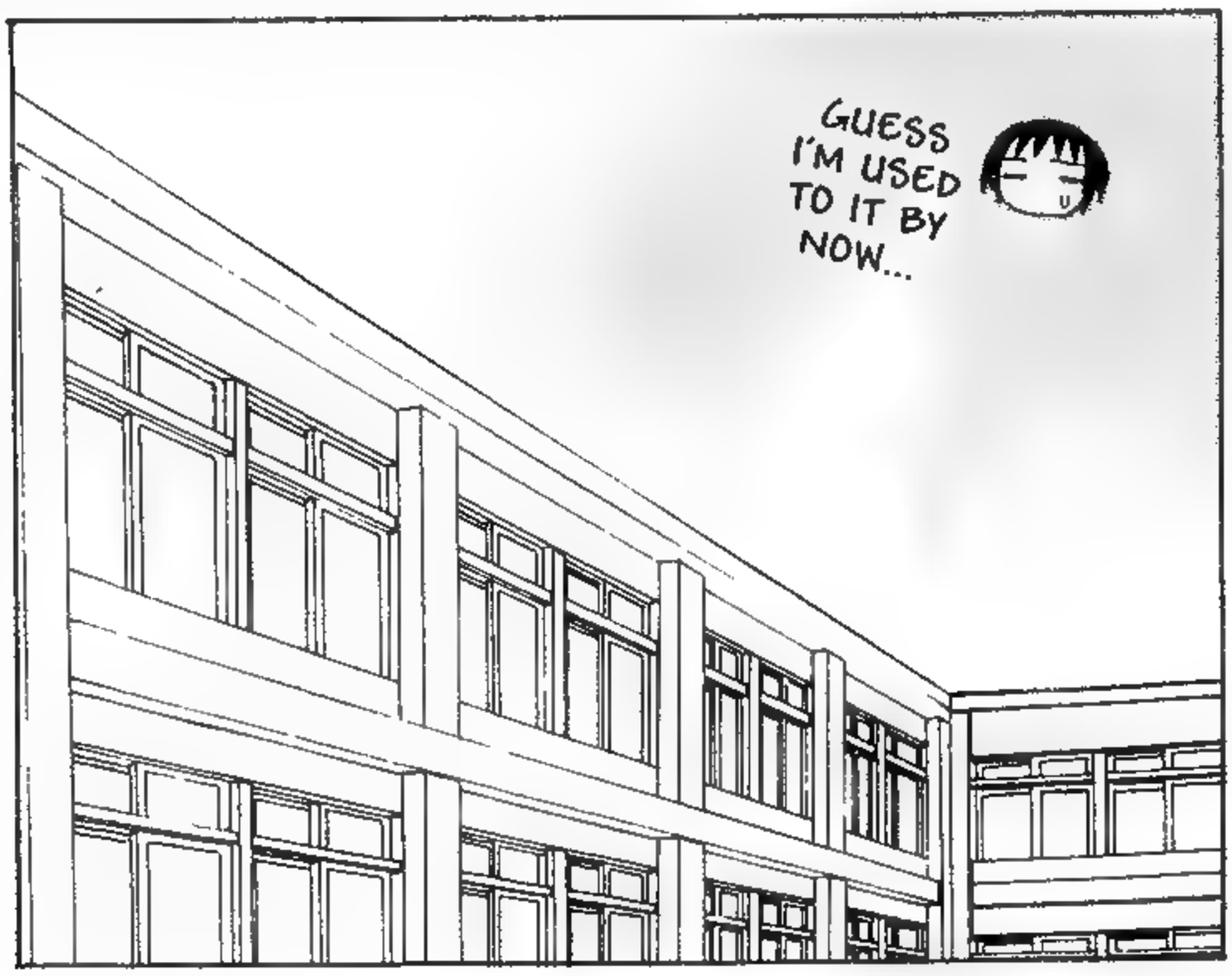


WHAT THE HELL?

MORE NONSENSE ...

山へ行ってください。
そこに目立つ形をした石が
あります。その石を西へ向かって
約三メートル移動させてください。
場所は、その朝比奈みくるが
知っています。
辺は真っ暗で危険ですから
るいうちがいいと思います。

NOTE: GO TO THE MOUNTAINS. THERE YOU WILL SEE AN ODDLY-SHAPED ROCK. MOVE IT APPROXIMATELY THREE METERS WEST. YOUR MIKURU ASAHINA WILL KNOW THE PLACE. IT WILL BE VERY DARK AFTER NIGHTFALL, SO TRY TO FINISH DURING THE DAYLIGHT.

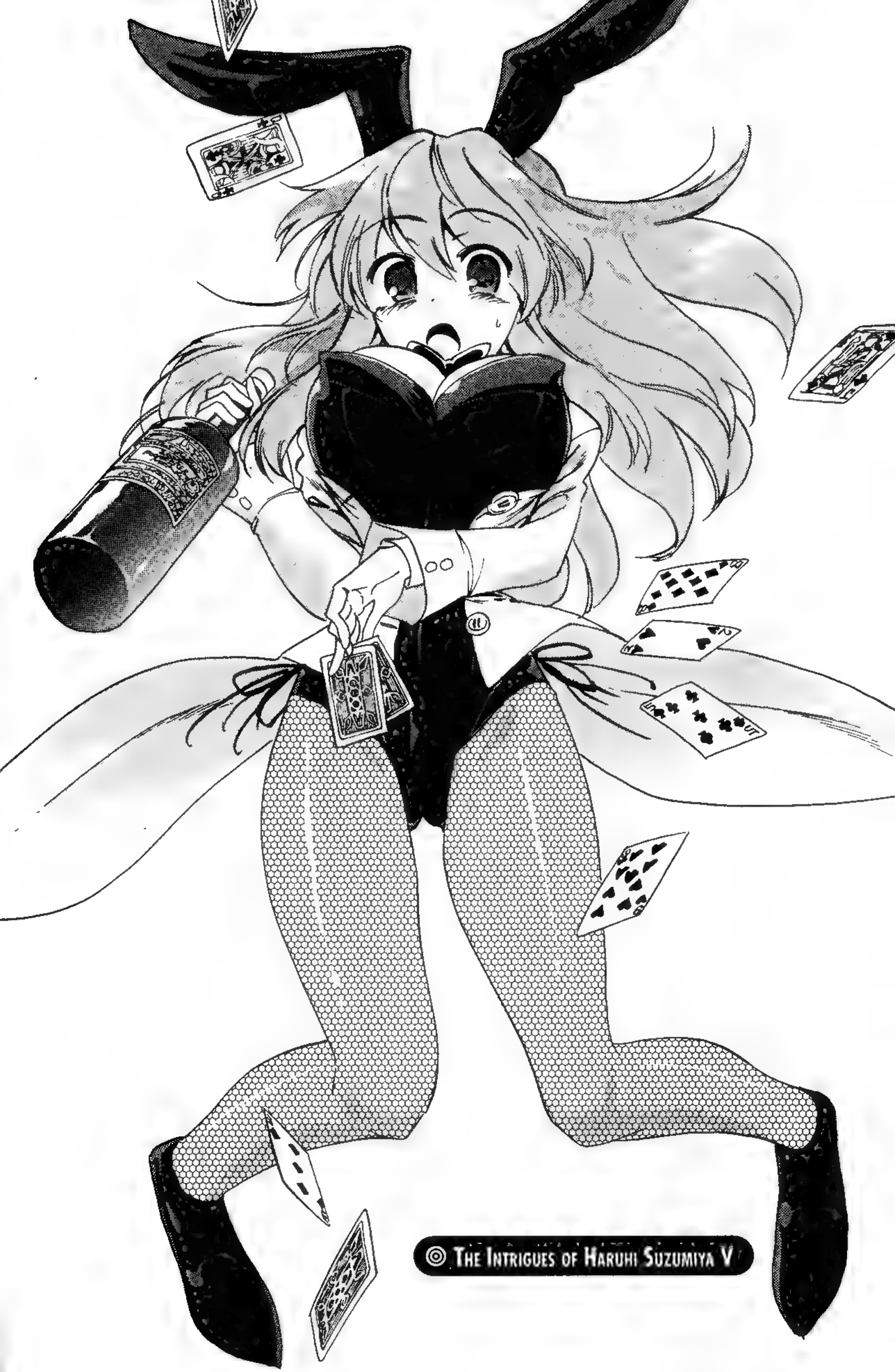


JUST SPARE ME THE SHOCKING PUNCH LINE FOR ONCE...

MORE OBSCURE DIRECTIONS... WHICH MEANT THAT I'D BE A MEMBER OF THE GO-HOME CLUB AGAIN TODAY.

THE INTRIGUES OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA IV : END

山へ行っ
そこに
ありま
約三
場所
知っ
石
ROCK
MORE NONSENSE ...
WHAT THE HELL?
OH, RIGHT, THE TREA-SURE HUNT.
GUESS THAT MEANS HARUHI'S GOING TO BE SPRINGING INTO ACTION AGAIN SOON...



WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU'VE BEEN SO GLOOMY LATELY.
GUESS SHE HASN'T REBOOTED YET.

THAT'S GOOD.
AH, YEAH. HE'S DOING OKAY.

HOW'S SHAMISEN?

WHAT ABOUT YOU? COMING TO THE CLUB ROOM TODAY?

AND TOMOR-R—
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? I'VE JUST GOT STUFF ON MY MIND...

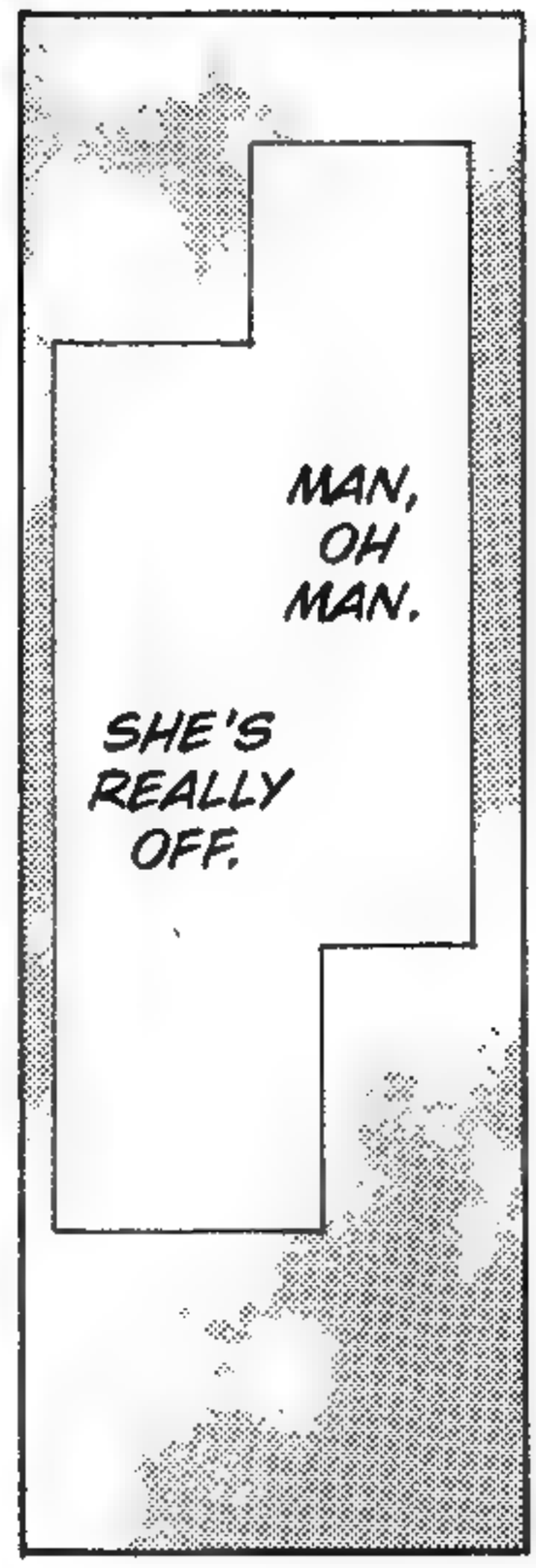
THAT'S PROB-ABLY BEST.
YEAH.
CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM TO MY SISTER.
I'M TAKING CARE OF HIM AGAIN TODAY.
SHAMISEN'S STILL PRETTY LONELY.

I WANT TO PLAY WITH HIM WHEN HE'S BETTER AGAIN!

MAKE SURE YOU STAY WITH HIM UNTIL HE'S RECOVERED.

BEING SICK IS LONELY.

H-HOW NICE OF YOU...



MY, OH MY.
SHUT UP.

PIKUN (TWITCH)
I GUESS HE AND HIS GIRL-FRIEND SPLIT UP.
SO THAT'S WHY HE'S DOWN.

FROM WHAT I HEARD, SHE WASN'T VERY SERIOUS ABOUT YOU.
I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.

KNOCK IT OFF!
RIGHT THERE WITH YA, PAL.
WE WERE ALL IN THIS TOGETH-ER.
I WAS JUST HAPPY THAT MY FRIEND WAS BACK AT THE STARTING LINE WITH ME.

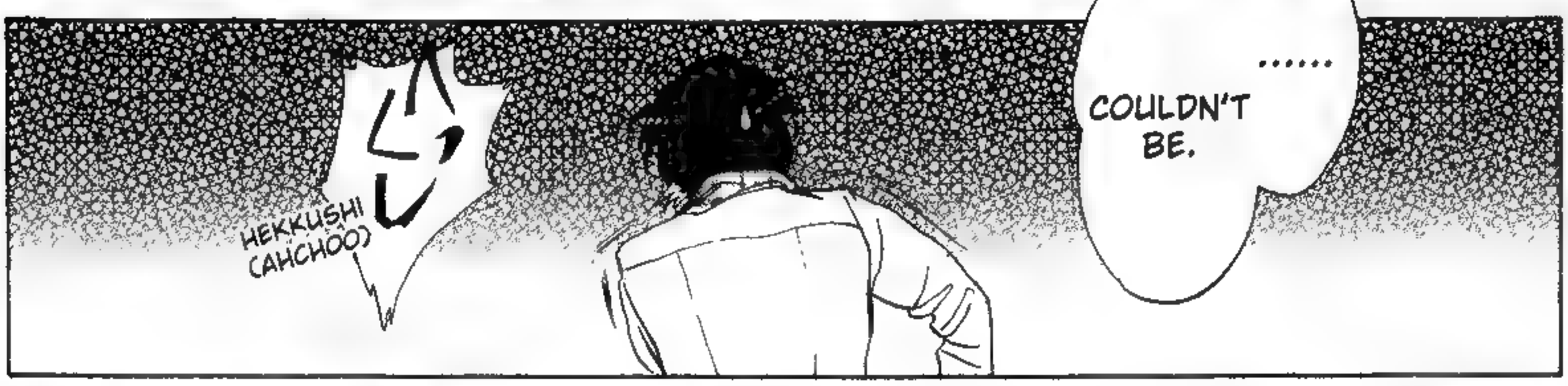
GUESS I'LL JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT.
PART OF ME THOUGHT HE DESERVED IT.
BUT I'M NOT TOTALLY HEART-LESS.

KUWA (BLAB)
I MEAN, GIVEN THE REASON YOU WERE GOING OUT...
ENOUGH!
SPEAK NO MORE!

THE IDEA THAT HARUHI'S MALAISE CAME FROM THE SAME ROOT AS TANIGUCHI'S.

IN OTHER WORDS, A ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP.

A STRANGE NOTION SUDDENLY OCCURRED TO ME.



YOU CHANGED YOUR CLOTHES.

KYON-KUN?

THEY LOOK GOOD ON YOU.

I BORROWED THEM FROM TSURUYA-SAN.

HA (GASP)

UH, I MEAN, NEVER MIND!

OH, GOOD-NESS, HARDLY.

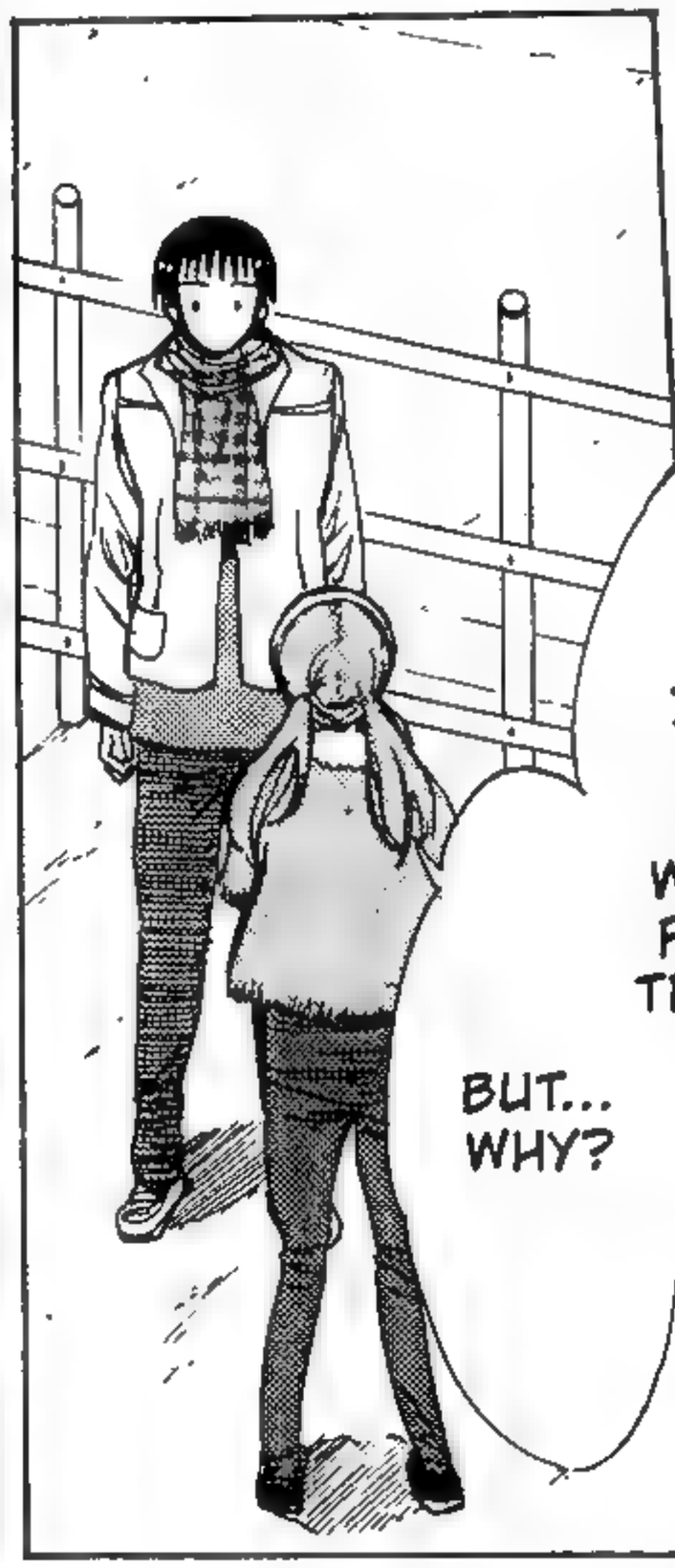
THE SLEEVES AND HEM ARE TOO LONG, AND THE CHEST IS TIGHT...

ER...THE MOUN-TAIN?

ASA-HINA-SAN.
THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE TO DO NEXT.

I SHOULD KNOW THE PLACE...?
AN ODDLY-SHAPED ROCK...

ASAHINA-SAN...


BUT... WHY?

I THINK THIS IS WHERE WE WENT FOR THE TREASURE HUNT.
I DO HAVE AN IDEA.

THESE DIRECTIONS MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT, I'M SURE...
...BUT ISN'T IT STRANGE?

WE DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING ON THE TREASURE HUNT, DID WE?

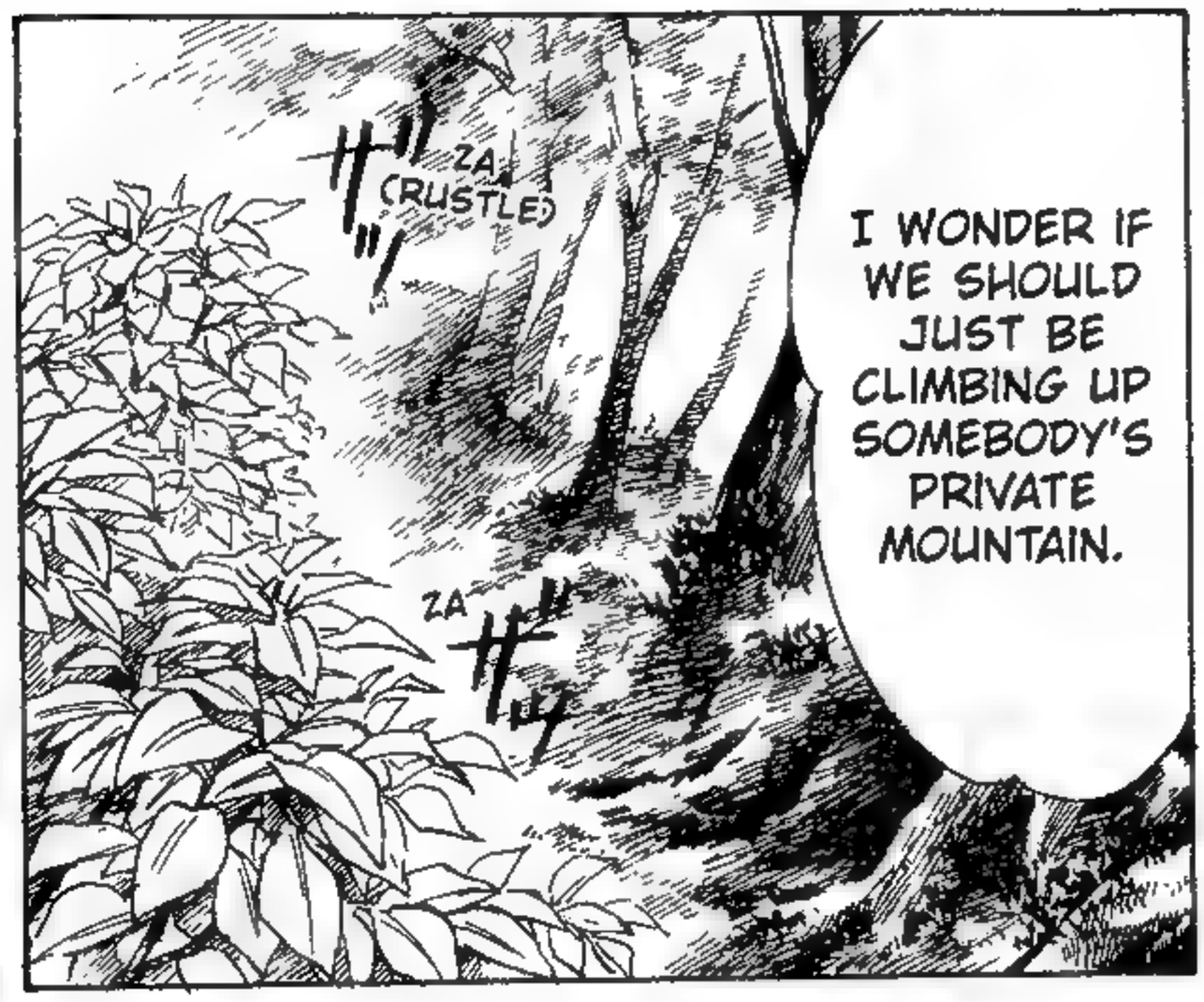
SORRY, HARUHI, BUT WE'VE GOT SOME LOCATION SCOUTING TO DO AHEAD OF YOU.
WE'D JUST HAVE TO GO HAVE A LOOK.

BUT, NO...
TH-THAT'S... I WONDER ...

KYU (SQUEAK) KYU KYU
MAYBE I'LL REMEMBER SOMETHING WHEN WE GET THERE...
I CAN'T THINK OF ANY-THING!
N-NOTHING AT ALL!

THE TSURUYA CLAN'S PRIVATE MOUNTAIN WAS EAST OF NORTH HIGH.
IT WAS MORE OF A LARGE HILL THAN A MOUNTAIN AND DIDN'T HAVE MUCH IN THE WAY OF ALTITUDE.
IF YOU REALLY SQUINTED, IT DID SORT OF LOOK LIKE A FORGOTTEN BURIAL MOUND.
THERE WAS ONLY A STEEP, NARROW ANIMAL TRAIL, SO IF THE BEAR WANTED TO GO OVER THE MOUNTAIN, HE WASN'T GONNA HAVE AN EASY TIME OF IT.
OVER HERE.
YES, WE CLIMBED UP FROM HERE.

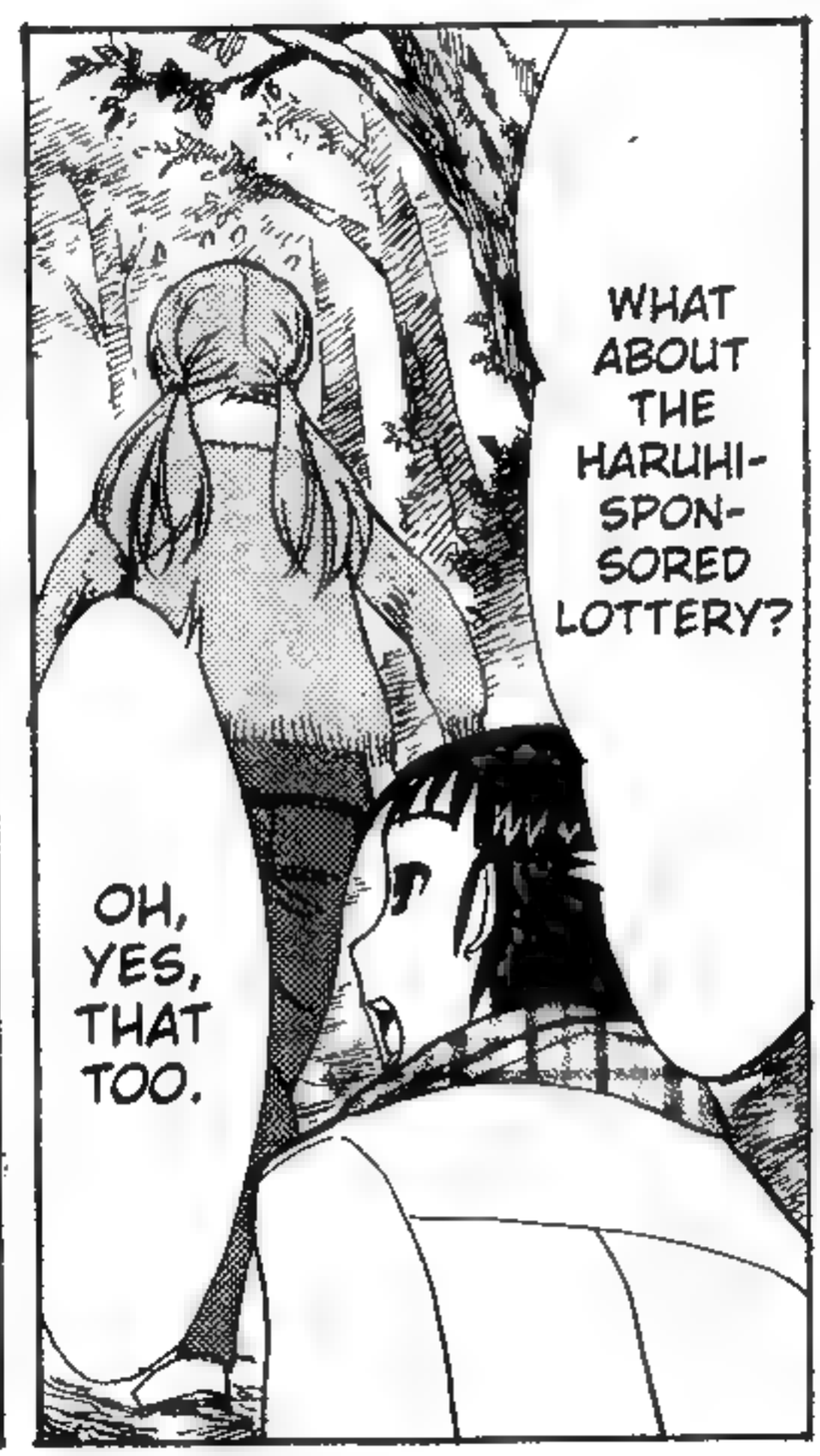
ZA
OH, IT WAS A FEW DAYS AGO THAT SHE TOLD ME...
TSURUYA-SAN SAID IT WAS OKAY.


ZA (RUSTLE)
ZA
I WONDER IF WE SHOULD JUST BE CLIMBING UP SOMEBODY'S PRIVATE MOUNTAIN.

JUST THAT WE DID A TREASURE HUNT AND A CITY PATROL.
ZA
I CAN'T TELL YOU... UM, VERY MUCH.

I WISH YOU'D TELL ME A LITTLE MORE.
ZA
RELA-TIVELY SPEAKING, THAT'S TOMOR-ROW, SO...

ZA
ZA
YOU SEEM KIND OF NER-VOUS.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT FORGETTING SOMETHING ELSE?
はわわ
HA WA WA...


WHAT ABOUT THE HARUHI-SPON-SORED LOTTERY?
OH, YES, THAT TOO.

OR, WELL...
PROB-ABLY.

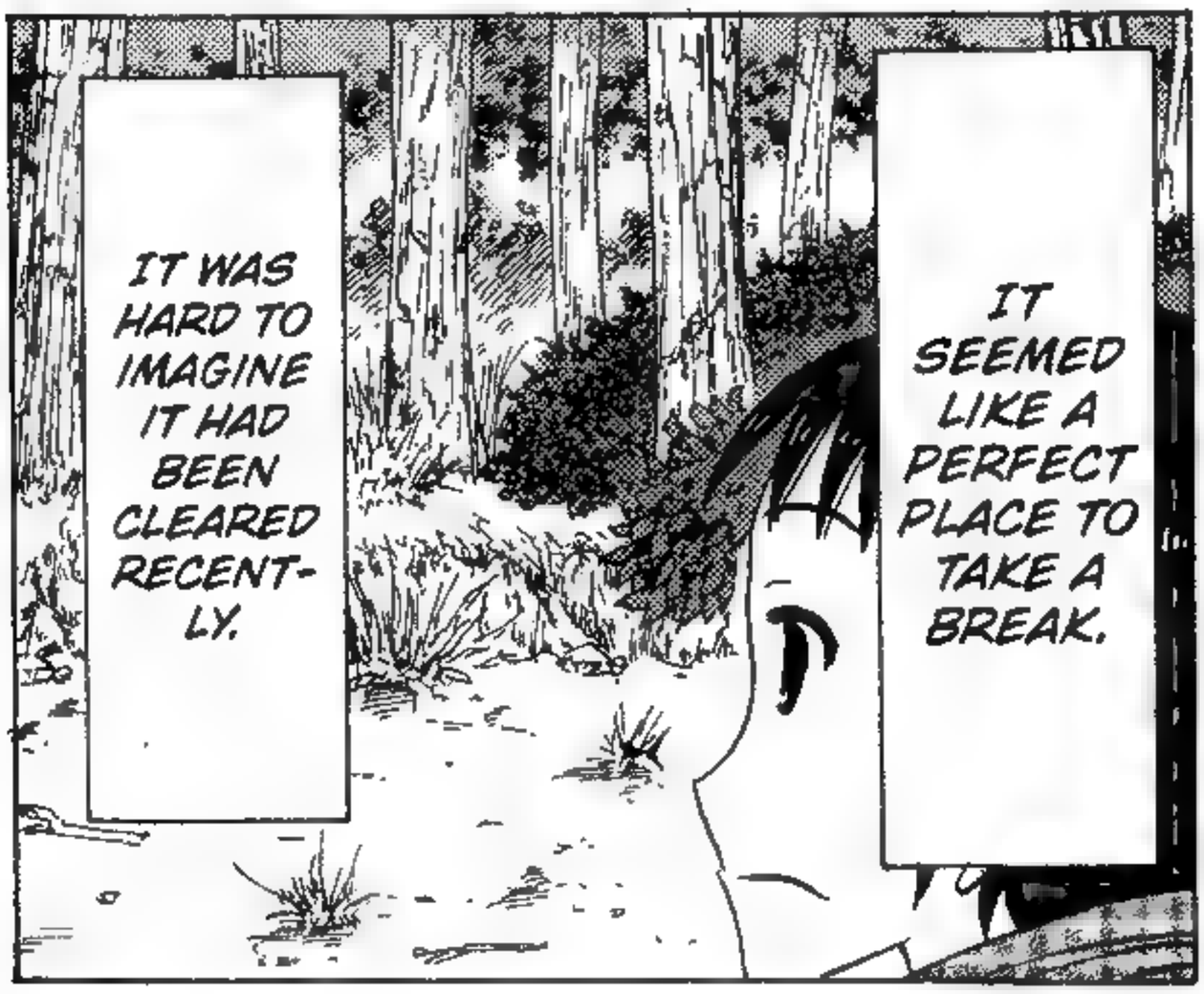
TH-THAT'S CLASSIFIED!

ASAHINA THE ELDER > "MICHIRU" ASAHINA > ASAHINA THE YOUNGER, I GUESS.
I'M SORRY ...
IT SEEMED LIKE THIS ASAHINA-SAN WAS HIDING SOMETHING TOO.

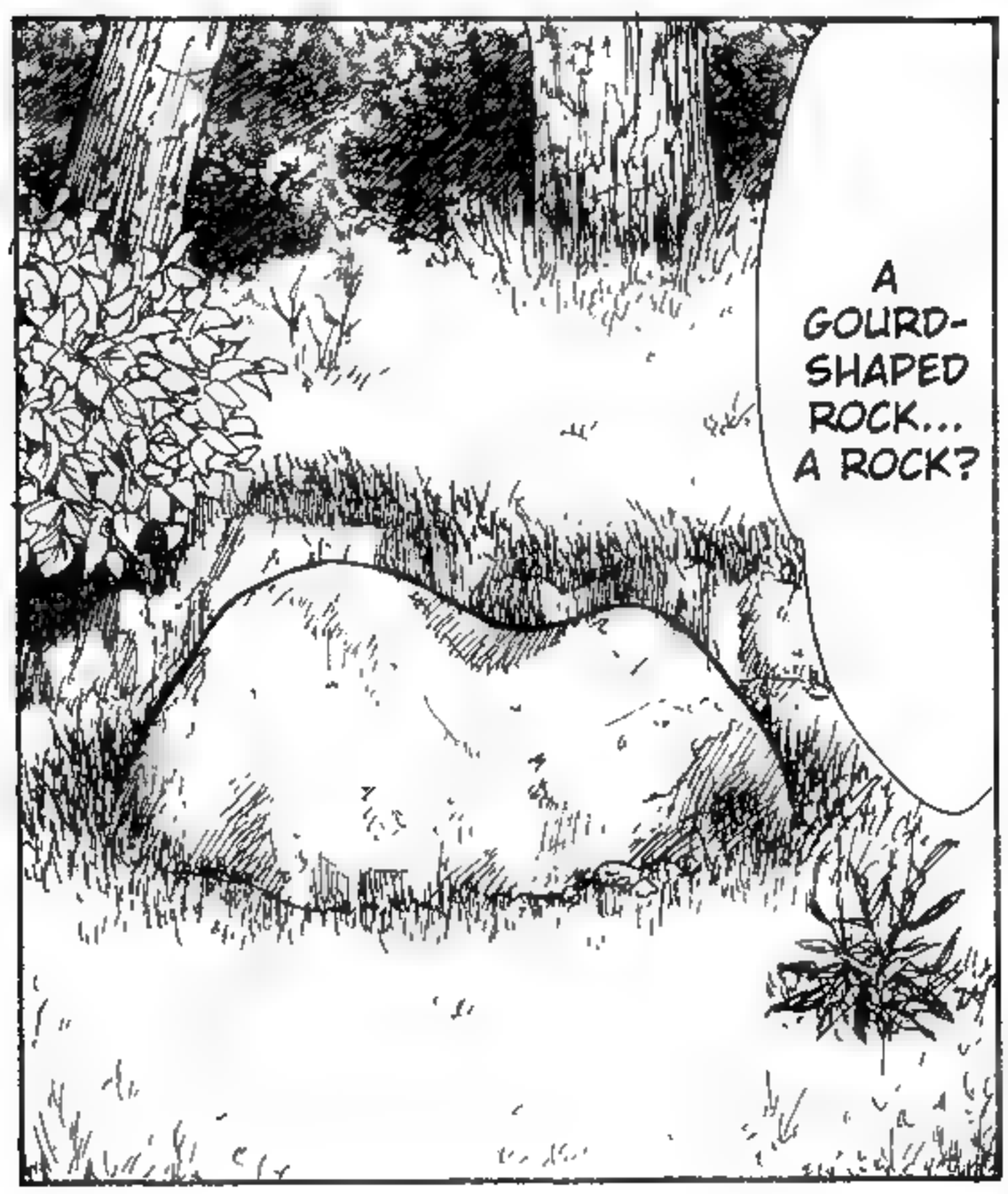
LET'S JUST GET THIS MISSION DONE BEFORE DARK.
NO, NO, IT'S FINE.
I'M SURE I'LL FIGURE IT OUT.

SHUS!
HUH!
AH!
WE HEADED INTO THE DENSE FOREST.
KYAH (SHRIEK)
ZURU (SLIP)
NORMALLY I WOULD'VE TAKEN THE LEAD, BUT...
DOSA (FWUMP)
HO!
WE CLIMBED FOR ABOUT TEN MINUTES, WHICH CAME WITH SOME UNEXPECTED PERKS.
YES...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

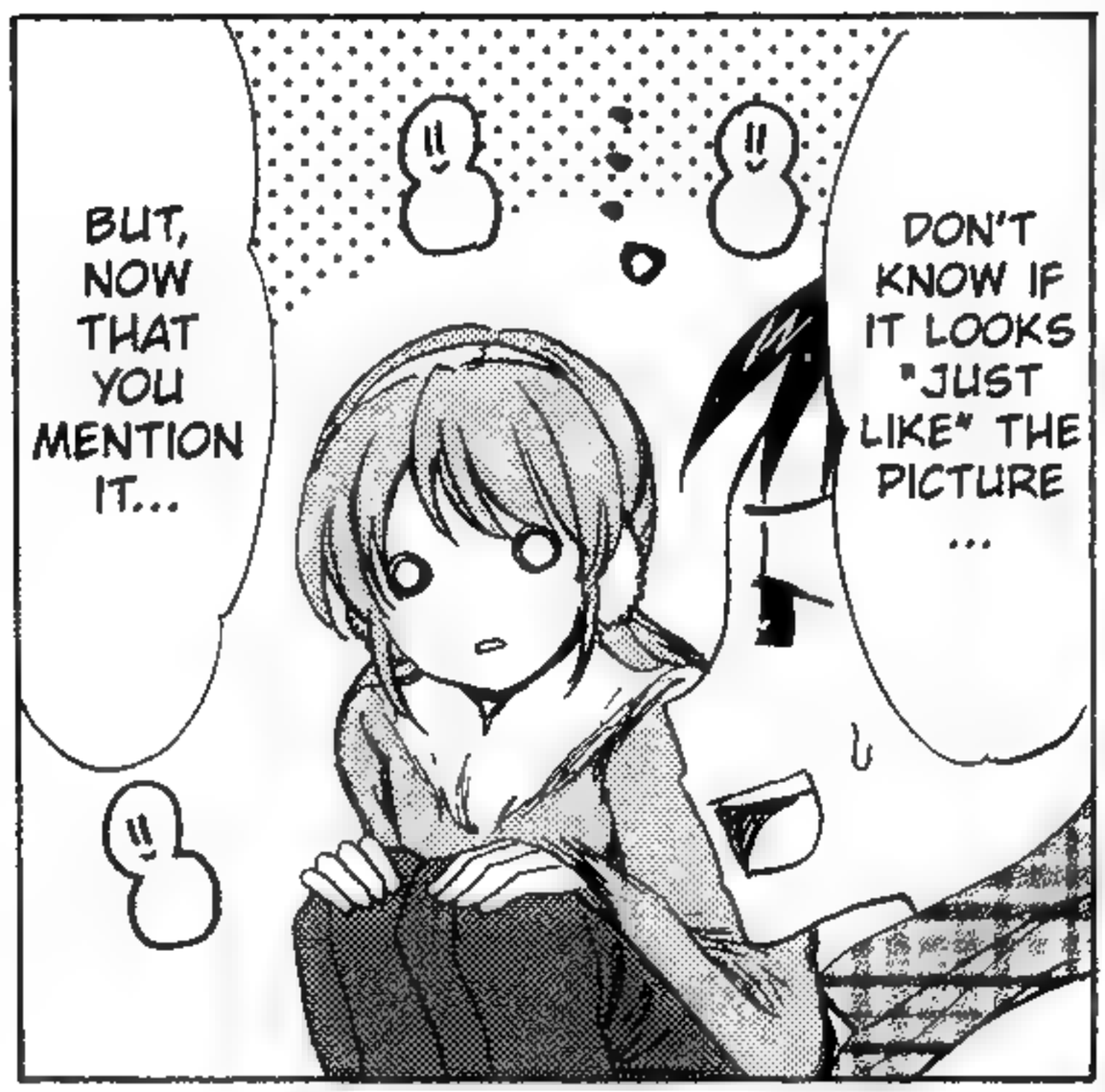
HERE... WHEW... IT'S HERE.

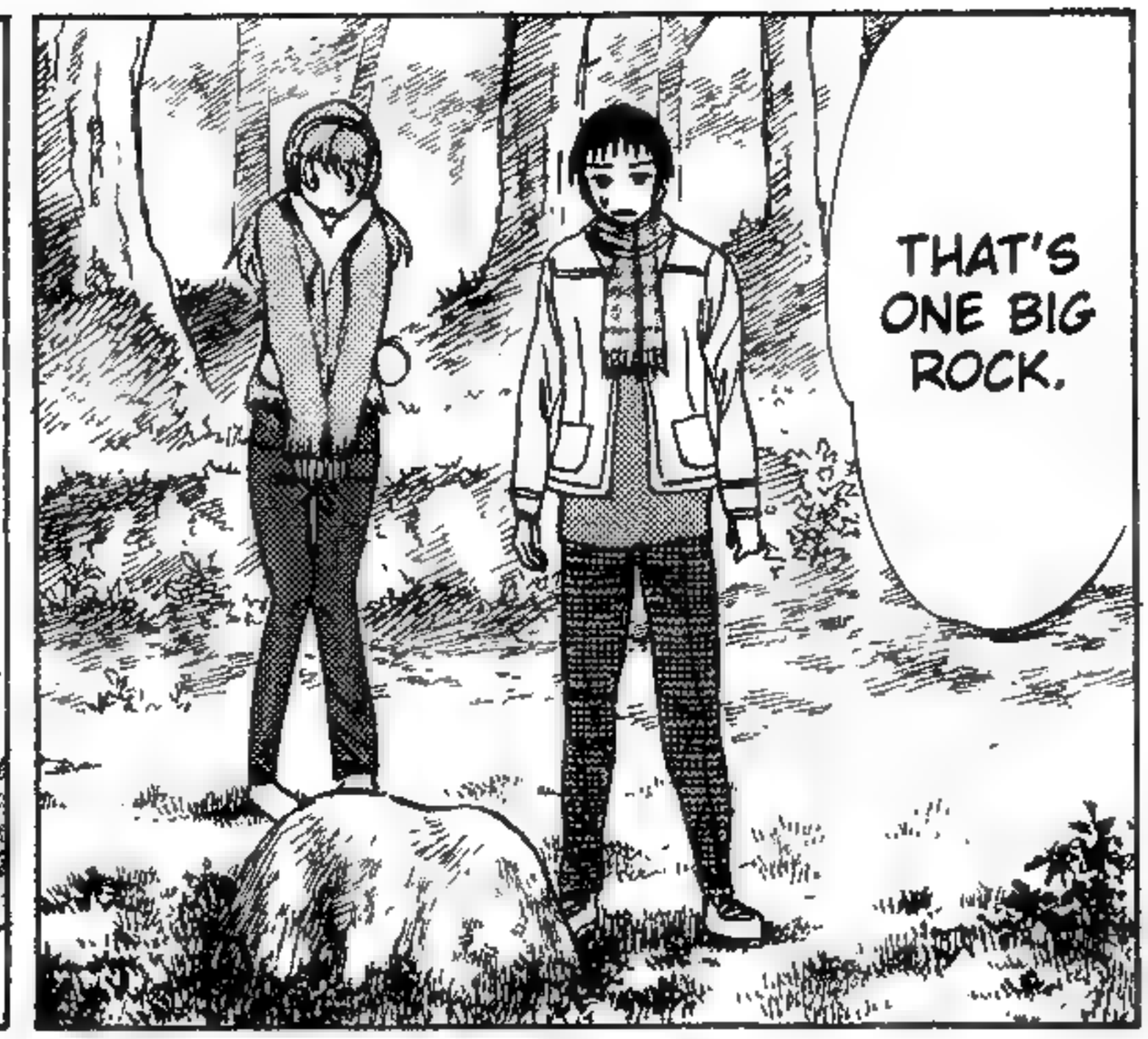

IT WAS HARD TO IMAGINE IT HAD BEEN CLEARED RECENTLY.
IT SEEMED LIKE A PERFECT PLACE TO TAKE A BREAK.

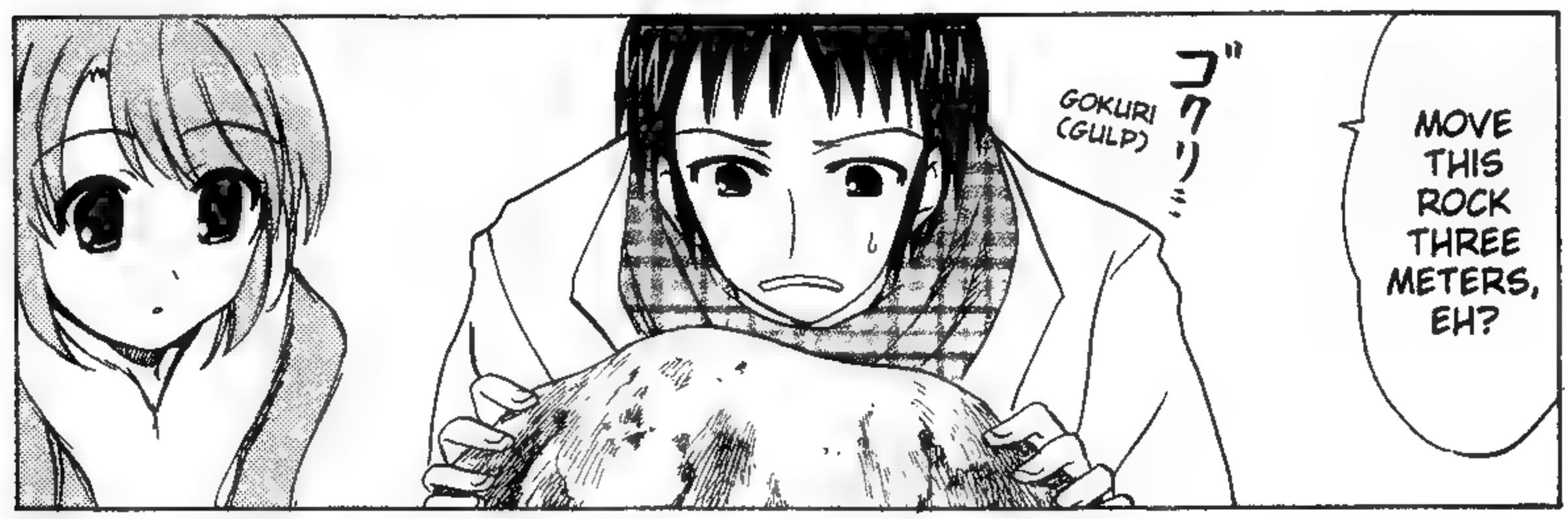
HUH.
WE DUG ALL OVER THE PLACE, BUT THE STONE WAS HERE.


A GOURD-SHAPED ROCK... A ROCK?

I THINK THAT'S THE ROCK FROM THE MESSAGE.
IT LOOKS JUST LIKE THE ONE IN THE DRAWING.


BUT, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
DON'T KNOW IF IT LOOKS "JUST LIKE" THE PICTURE ...


THAT'S ONE BIG ROCK.


MOVE THIS ROCK THREE METERS, EH?
ゴクリ
GOKURI (GULP)

HHNGH!
GU

.....
UGH, IT'S FREAKIN' HEAVY.
GU (PULL)

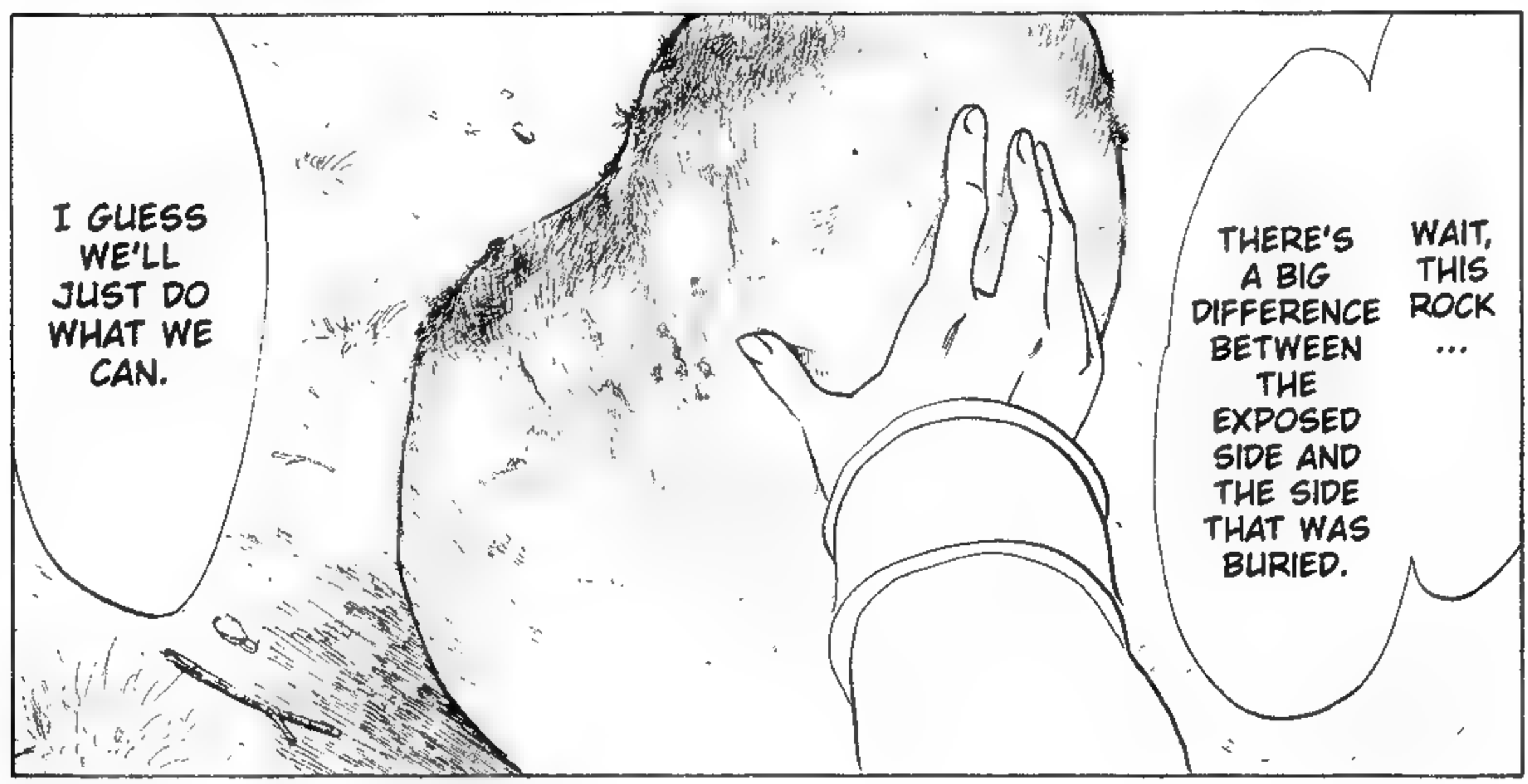
WHAT NEXT?
OVER HERE.
IT DOES LOOK KINDA GOURD-ISH...
HRNGH!
BOKOO (POP)
HRK!
URRRR-RRRGH ...
...IS NOT A ROCK. IT'S A BOULDER.
THIS ...
YES, THERE ...
RIGHT AROUND THERE.

YES, SHE DOES.
DOES HARUHI BY ANY CHANCE HAPPEN TO MAKE US DIG UNDER THIS ROCK?

...IT DOES KIND OF STAND OUT LIKE THIS.

TOTALLY FUTILE ...
SO WHAT WAS THE POINT OF DOING THIS?
NOT THAT I COULD ASK.

BUT WE DON'T FIND ANY-THING...
IT'S TRUE.


I GUESS WE'LL JUST DO WHAT WE CAN.
THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE EXPOSED SIDE AND THE SIDE THAT WAS BURIED.
WAIT, THIS ROCK ...

PA (PAT)
PA
I'D HAVE TO ASK HER.
I WASN'T GOING TO ACCEPT THIS KIND OF UNI-LATERAL DIRECTION AGAIN.
PARARA (SCATTER)
"MICHIRU" ASAHINA DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE POINT OF ALL OF THIS WAS.
ONLY ASAHINA THE ELDER KNEW THE TRUTH.
DON
DON (STOMP)
OH... RAIN?
GUESS WE BETTER GET GOING.
YES, LET'S.

...BUT TOILING IN IGNORANCE WAS A DIFFICULT THING.

IT WAS BAD ENOUGH WITH THE CAN PRANK EARLIER...

PA (POP)

YOU MUST BE FREEZING! INTO THE BATH WITH YOU!

HEY, WELCOME BACK!

WHOA!

YOU TOO, KYON-KUN!

WE'LL TAKE ONE TOGETHER!

CHA (CHAK)
I FOUND IT WHEN I WAS POKING AROUND IN THE STORE-HOUSE.
I FIGURED WHY NOT GIVE IT TO HARU-NYAN.

WHAT'S THIS?
A TREASURE MAP.

IT'D BE A PAIN TO GO ALL THE WAY OUT THERE AND DIG IT UP!
SURE, SURE, WHY NOT!
IT'S TREASURE, AFTER ALL
IS IT REALLY OKAY TO JUST GIVE IT TO HER?

THERE'S EITHER NOTHING THERE OR SOMETHING TOTALLY POINTLESS.
HE WAS PROBABLY JUST TRYING TO PULL ONE OVER ON HIS DESCEN-DANTS.
OUR ANCESTOR LOVED PRANKS, Y'SEE...

GOT IT...

GOT THAT?

MAKE SUPER-SURE YOU GIVE IT TO HARU-NYAN, 'KAY?

SURELY THE FORMER.

THIS TREASURE HUNT SEEMS TO BE SOME KIND OF HANG-UP FOR HER...

WAS THERE REALLY CLASSIFIED INFORMA-TION?

SHE SEEMS OFF... WONDER WHY.

?

HERE WE GO...
PAKA (OPEN)
I TOOK A DEEP BREATH BEFORE OPENING MY SHOE LOCKER.

THE NEXT DAY...

HURRY UP AND SHOW IT TO ME!
BAN (BAM)
ばん!
I HEARD ALL ABOUT IT!

#3
#6
#4
#3, #4... #6?
THEY'RE NUMBERED.

BIKU (FLINCH)
ビク!
KYON!
WHAT THE ...?

DON (BAM)
IT'S OB-VIOUS, ISN'T IT?
THE SUPER-AWESOME THING!

CRAP.
WHAT... DO YOU MEAN?
GUSHA (CRUMPLE)

HEY, KNOCK IT OFF ...!
WHA ...?
HYOI (DODGE)

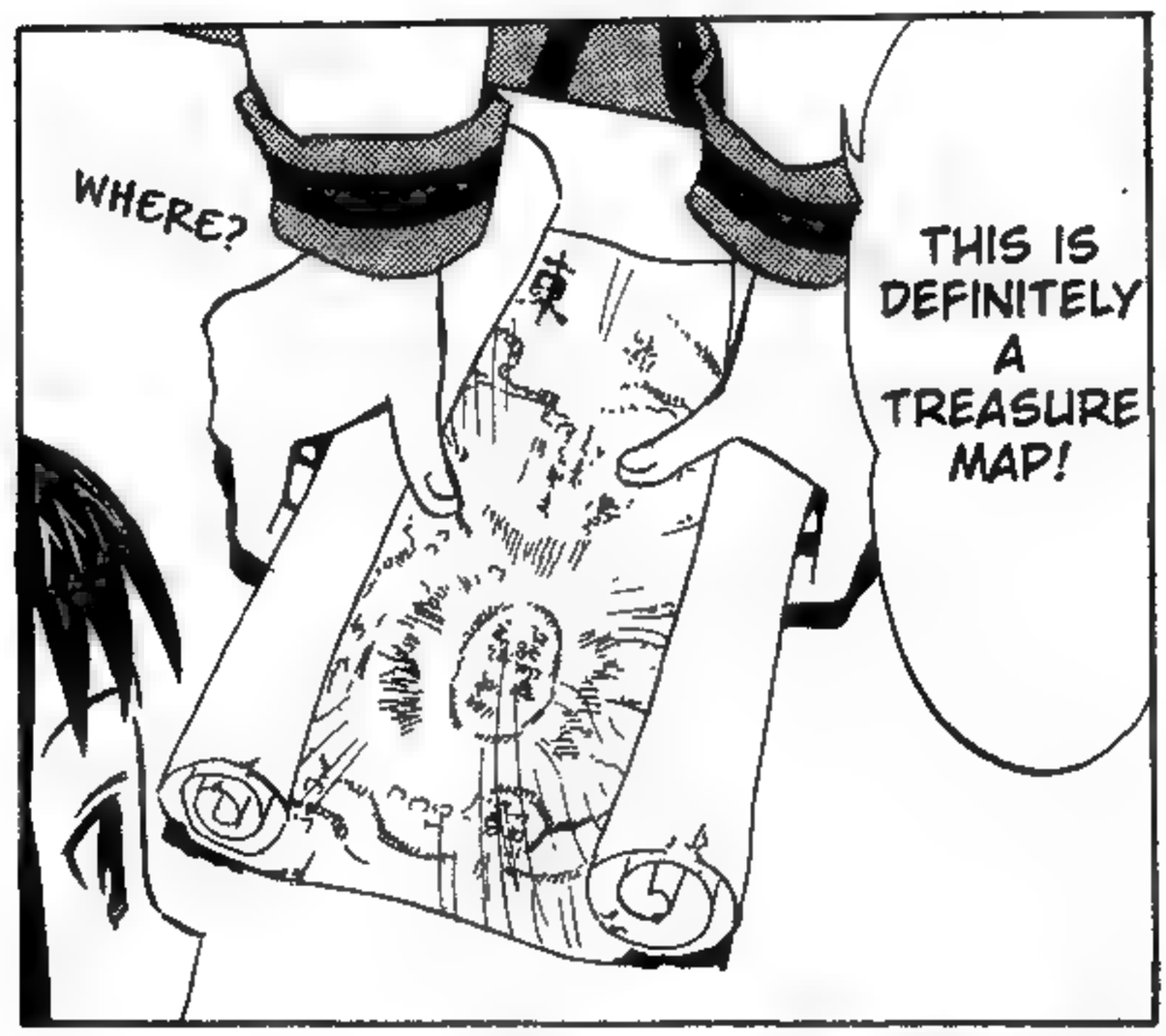
BA (WHAP)
UGH, YOU'RE SO ANNOY-ING!
H-HEY... C'MON...

OH, THAT'S WHAT SHE WAS LOOKING FOR.

I WAS GONNA MAKE IT A SURPRISE AFTER SCHOOL ...
KYUPON (POP)
HONESTLY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TSURUYA-SAN WAS THINKING ...
SHE SHOULD'VE JUST GIVEN IT STRAIGHT TO ME.

KARARA (CLATTER)
I JUST HAPPENED TO ASK.
I GUESS HE'S FEELING BETTER, THEN. GOOD FOR HIM.

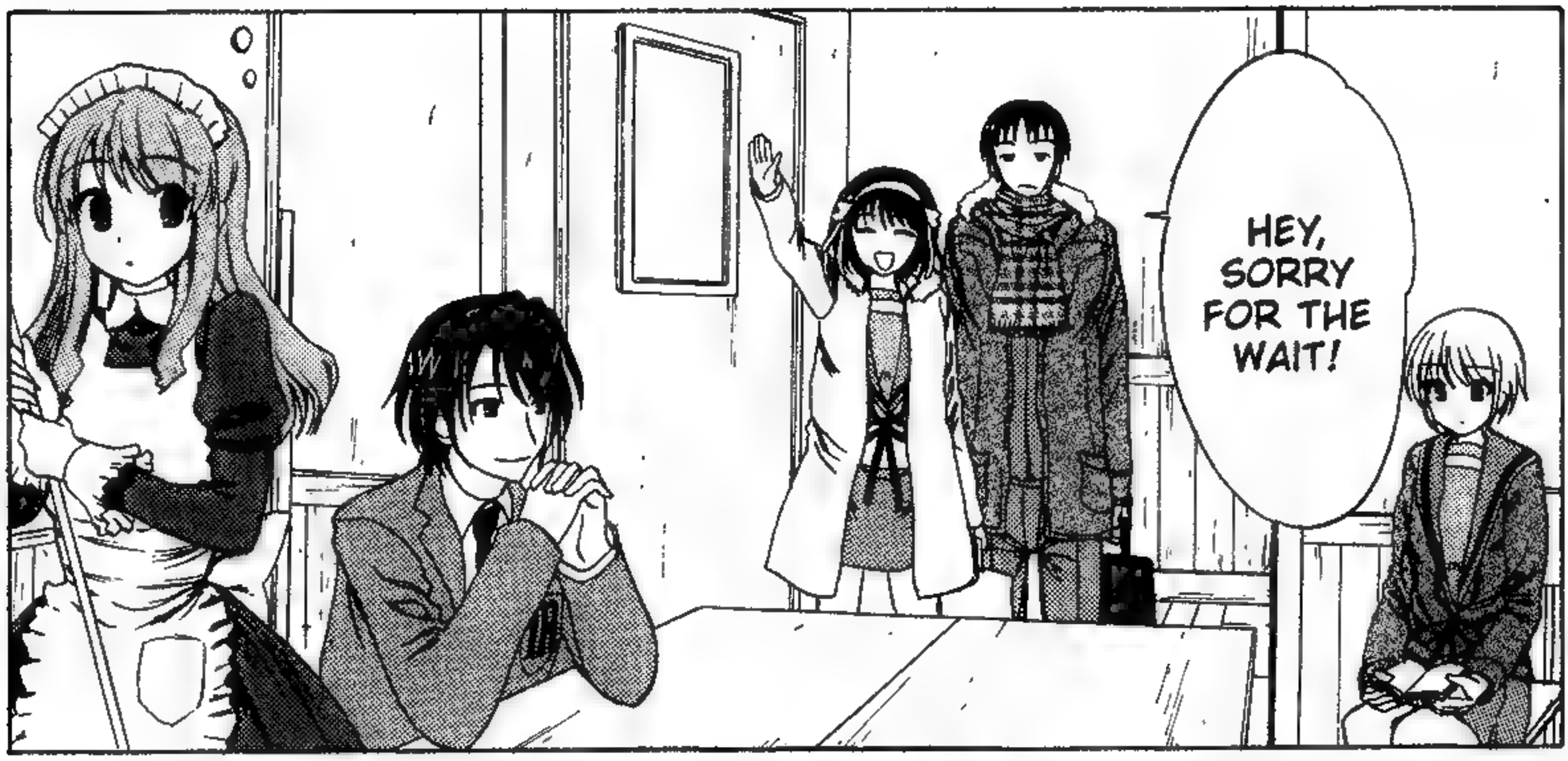
YOU TOOK SHAMISEN FOR A WALK, RIGHT?
I GOT A CALL FROM TSURUYA-SAN LAST NIGHT.


WHERE?
THIS IS DEFINITELY A TREASURE MAP!

LOOK AT THIS!
I HAD TO ADMIRE TSURUYA-SAN'S TALE.

"FUSAUEMON TSURUYA, 1702, FIFTEENTH YEAR OF THE GENROKU ERA."
"THOSE OF MY DESCENDANTS WHO WOULD SEEK IT, DIG YE HERE.
"UPON THIS MOUNTAIN IS BURIED SOME-THING RARE.

SFX: GATA (CLATTER) GATA GATA


HEY, SORRY FOR THE WAIT!

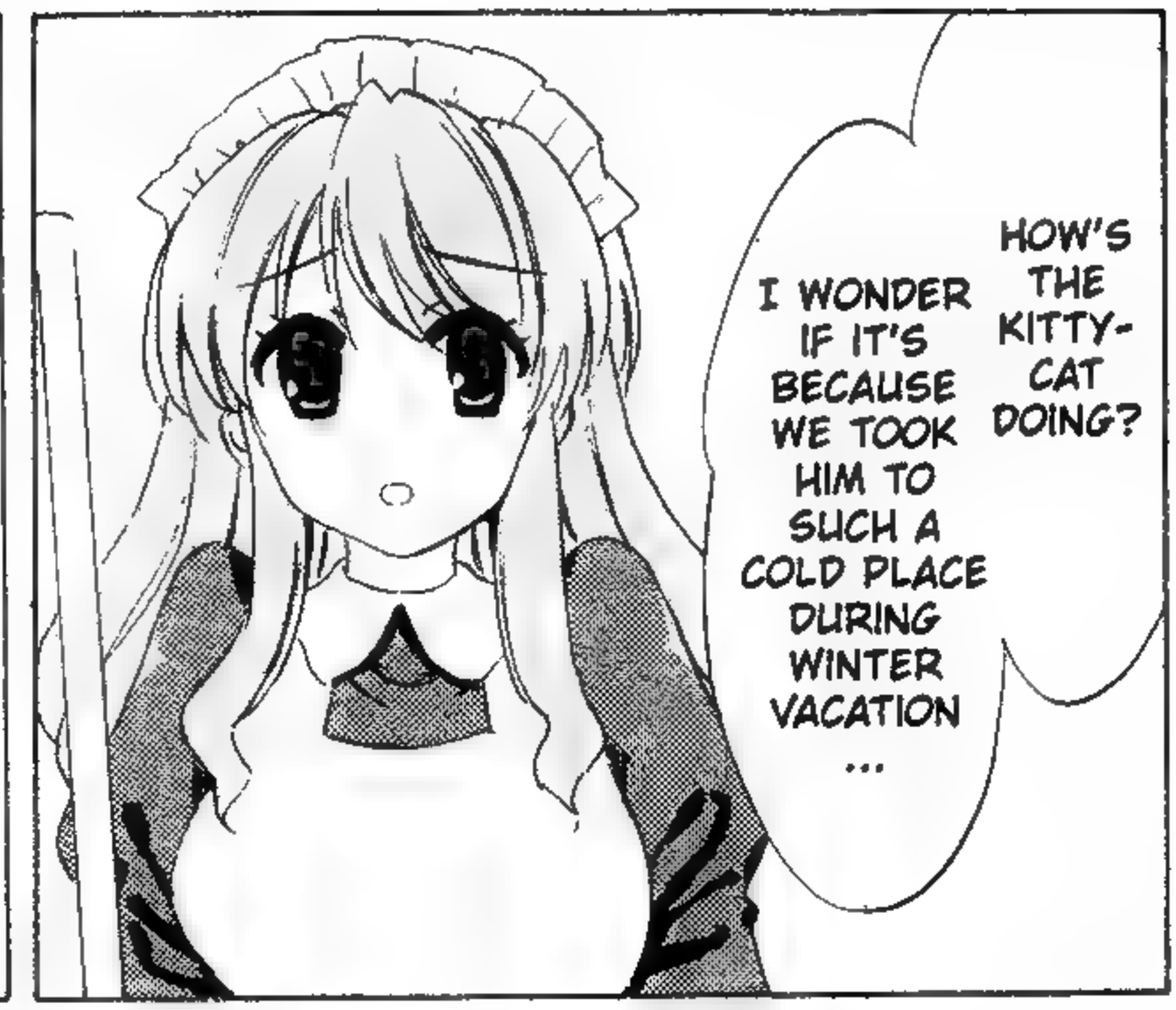
I CAN RECOMMEND AN EXCELLENT ANIMAL HOSPITAL IF NEED BE.
HOW'S SHAMISEN THE FIRST DOING?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

JUST SPIT IT OUT.
...THEY'D HAVE TO BE PEOPLE THAT DON'T YET EXIST ON THIS EARTH.

AS FAR AS PEOPLE OUTSIDE MY NETWORK OF CONNECTIONS GO...
I'M ACTUALLY RATHER WELL-CONNECTED.

OKAY!
THAT'S RIGHT!
MIKURU-CHAN, TEA!
I BELIEVE YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A MEETING.

UHHHH...
UH, NO...


I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE WE TOOK HIM TO SUCH A COLD PLACE DURING WINTER VACATION ...
HOW'S THE KITTY-CAT DOING?

YOU HAVE TO LET ME PLAY WITH HIM!
KITTIES ARE JUST SO CUTE!

PAAAA (BEAM)
ぱぁぁぁ
REALLY !?
SHAMI-SEN'S BEEN DOING BETTER.

BAN (WHAM)
EVERY-BODY, THE GUEST OF HONOR'S ARRIVED!
WE'VE BEEN WAIT-ING!
HERE I AM!
SURE, ANYTIME!

...WHERE WE KEEP A BUNCH OF OLD STUFF WE DON'T NEED.

IT WAS IN THE FAMILY STORE-ROOM, SEE...

BUT MY ANCESTOR SAID IN HIS WILL THAT WE COULDN'T EVER DO THAT.

...TO TURN THAT MOUNTAIN OVER TO THE STATE.

THEY'VE TRIED TO GET US...

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.

REST IN PEACE...

SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE GETTING AT, ANCESTOR GUY!

THAT'S HOW WHAT IS?

GABIIN (BOING)

OH MAN, THAT'S IT!

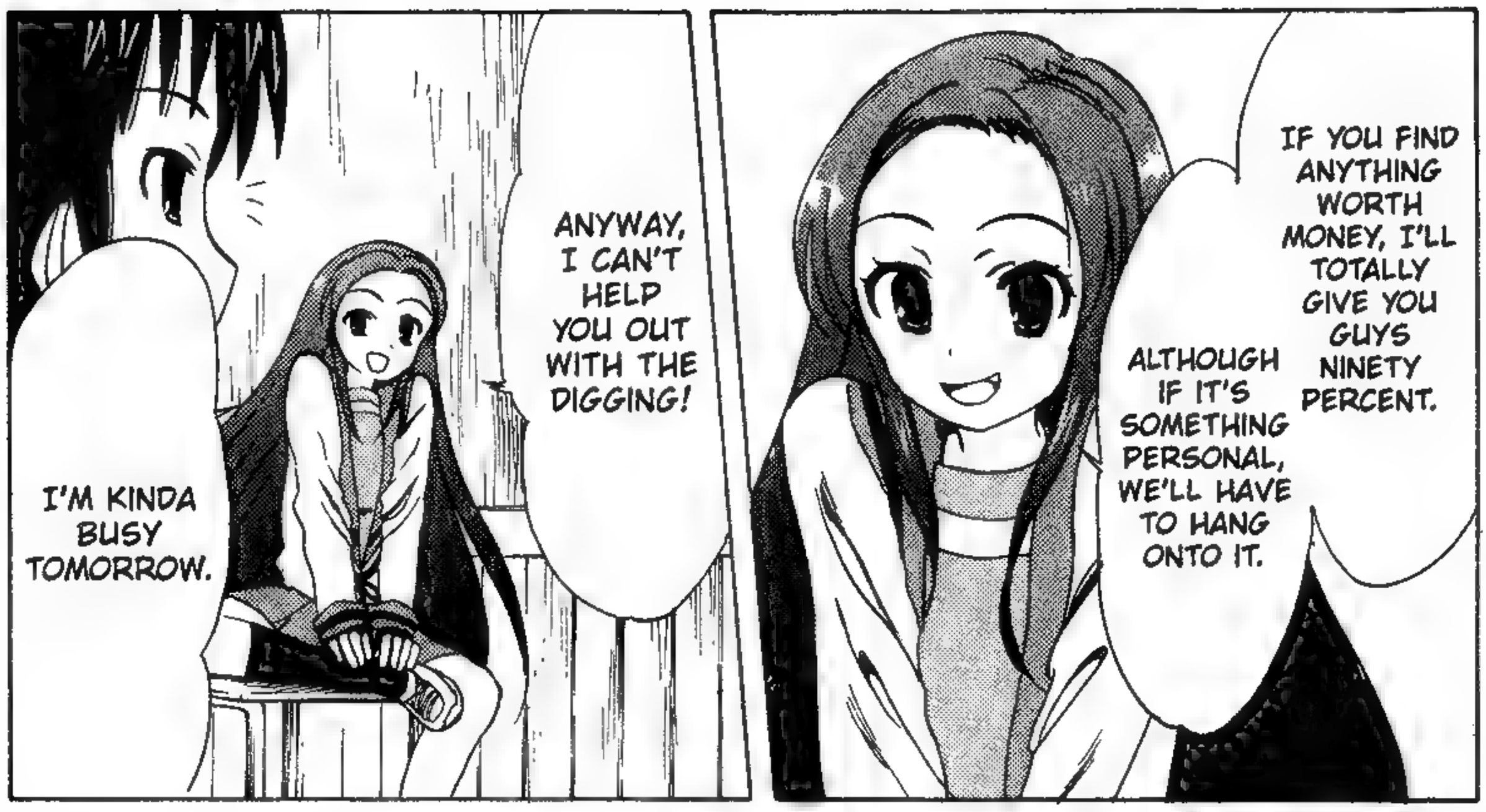
IT MUST BE BECAUSE OF THE TREA-SURE BURIED THERE!

IF WE DON'T HURRY, SOMEBODY MIGHT BEAT US TO IT.
WE'RE GOING TO LOOK FOR THAT TREASURE.

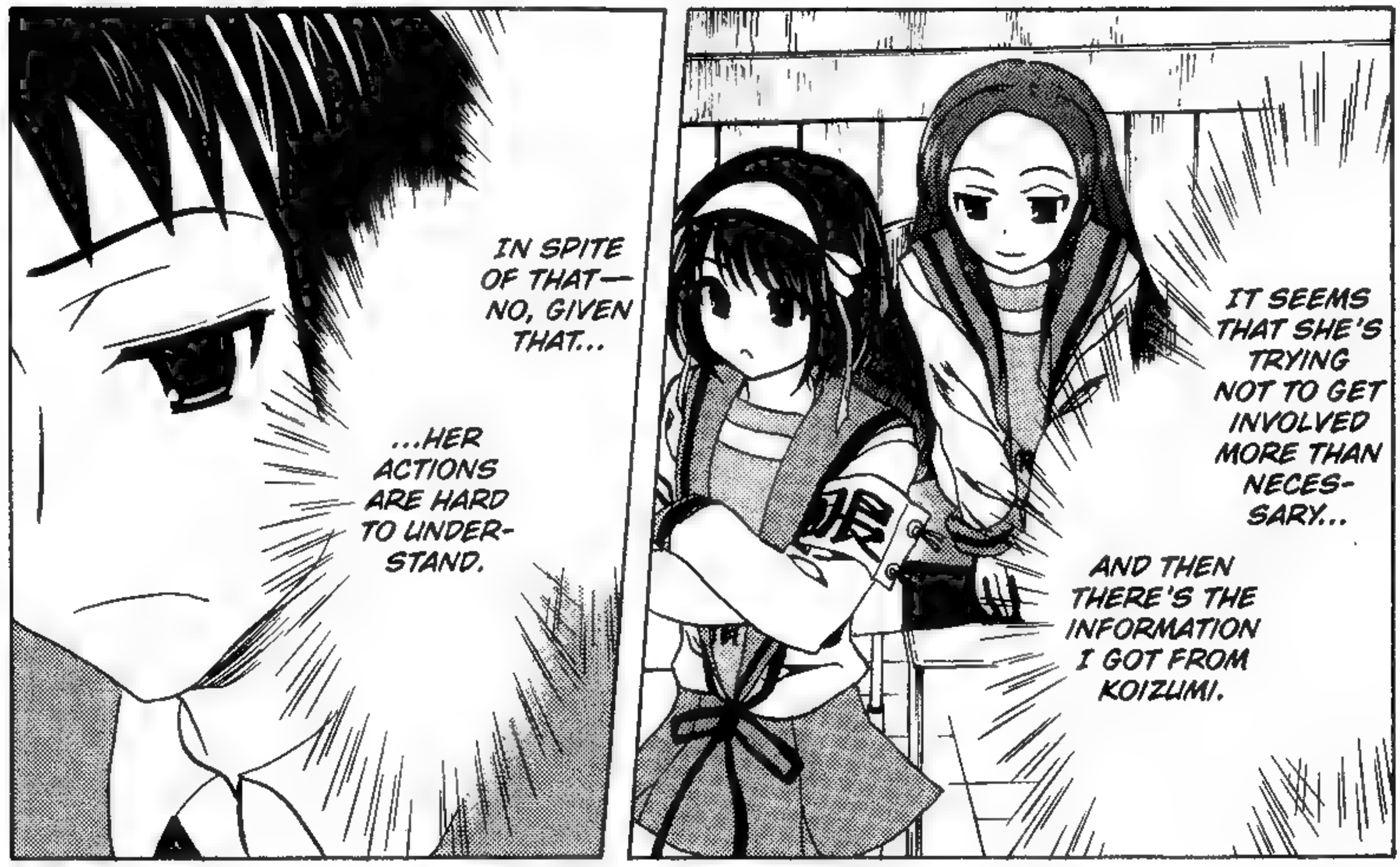
IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO ACT SURPRISED AT THIS.
OOO (WHOOO)
MEET AT THE USUAL STATION, TOMORROW AT 9 A.M.!

WELL, WELL ...
THIS COULD INDEED BE FASCINATING, FROM AN ANTHROPO-LOGICAL AND ARCHAEO-LOGICAL PERSPECTIVE.
DO YOU ACTUALLY THINK THAT?

TOMORROW? MOUNTAIN CLIMBING?
I'D BETTER MAKE SOME LUNCH-ES!
WHA...? TREA-SURE HUNT-ING?
EXCEPT FOR HER.


ANYWAY, I CAN'T HELP YOU OUT WITH THE DIGGING!
I'M KINDA BUSY TOMORROW.
IF YOU FIND ANYTHING WORTH MONEY, I'LL TOTALLY GIVE YOU GUYS NINETY PERCENT.
ALTHOUGH IF IT'S SOMETHING PERSONAL, WE'LL HAVE TO HANG ONTO IT.

I DIDN'T DOUBT HER. AND YET...
SHE'S KEEPING HER PROMISE NOT TO SAY ANYTHING TO THIS ASAHINA-SAN.


IN SPITE OF THAT— NO, GIVEN THAT...
...HER ACTIONS ARE HARD TO UNDER-STAND.
IT SEEMS THAT SHE'S TRYING NOT TO GET INVOLVED MORE THAN NECES-SARY...
AND THEN THERE'S THE INFORMATION I GOT FROM KOIZUMI.

BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY QUES-TION...

MAYBE SHE'S JUST FINDS IT AMUSING?

SHE WENT OUT OF HER WAY TO THROW HARUHI A BONE.

IT WAS LIKE SHE WAS TRYING TO BE MORE INVOLVED, NOT LESS.

...WOULDN'T HER SHOWING UP ALL THE TIME PUT HIM IN A BAD POSITION?

OR MAYBE ...

HE'D PROBABLY BEEN ORDERED NOT TO INTERFERE WITH TSURUYA, BUT...

KOIZUMI HAD NEVER GIVEN HER A SIGNIFICANT LOOK.

HE'D SAID THAT IF HE HAD TO WEIGH THE AGENCY AGAINST NAGATO...

BUT THAT WAS BETWEEN THE AGENCY AND THE FAMILY...

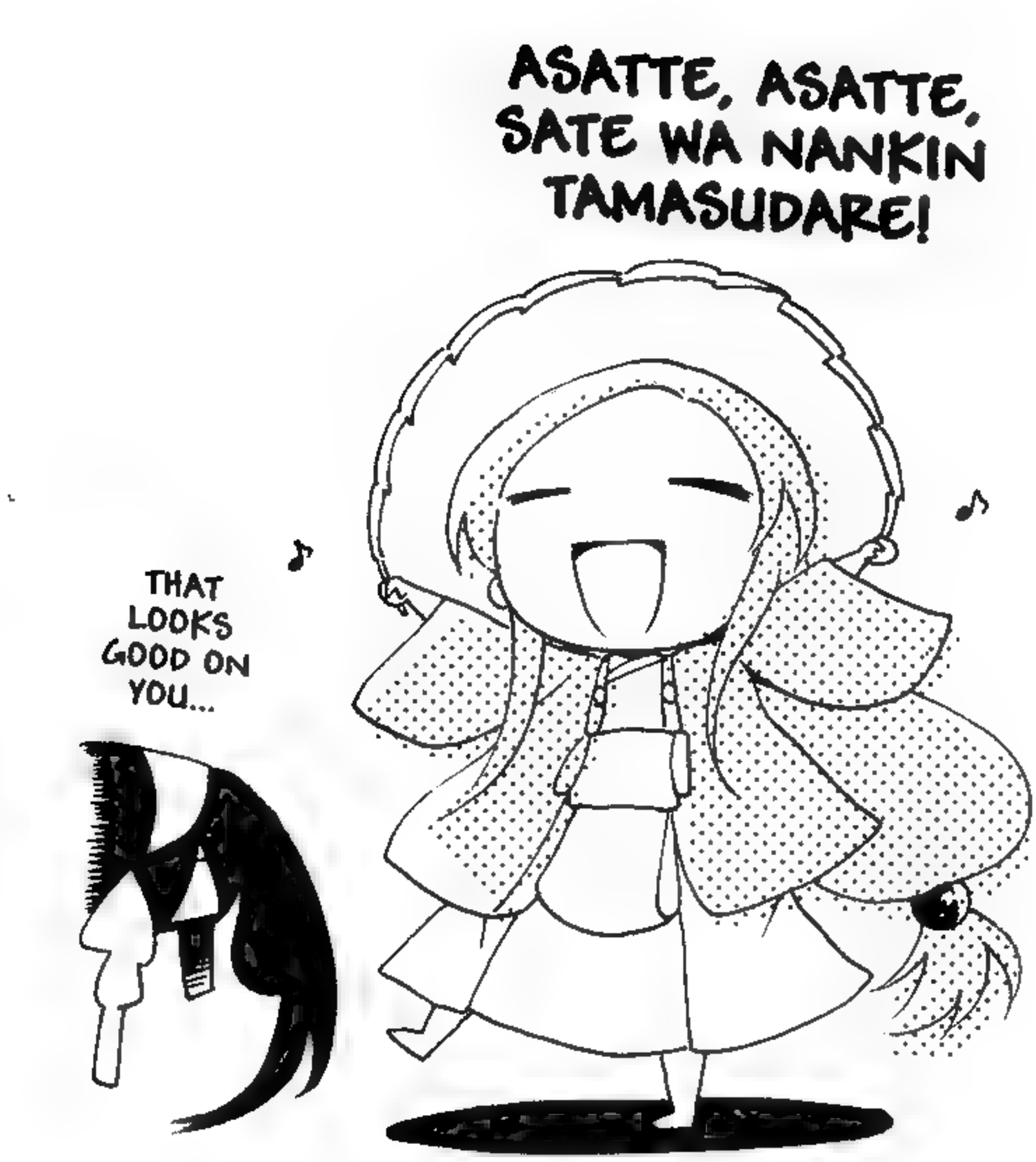
...THAT HE'D CHOOSE US OVER THEM.

THERE WAS SOME KIND OF UNWRITTEN AGREEMENT BETWEEN KOIZUMI'S AGENCY AND THE TSURUYA CLAN...

...NOT KOIZUMI AND TSURUYA SPECIFICALLY ...

THOSE WORDS ARE STILL IN EFFECT, KOIZUMI!

THE INTRIGUES OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA V 8 END


ASATTE, ASATTE, SATE WA NANKIN TAMASUDARE!
THAT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU...

THE MELANCHOLY OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA

#3 #6
THE NEXT INSTRUCTIONS... #3, #4, #6?
DID THAT MEAN THE LAST TWO WERE #1 AND #2?
SO THAT MADE THE FIRST ONE #0. WHERE WAS #5?
...I WOULDN'T HAVE MINDED ONE BIT IF SHE'D JUST HANDED THEM DIRECTLY TO ME.
ANYWAY, TIME TRAVELERS SURE DID LIKE LEAVING NOTES IN SHOE LOCKERS...

宝探し

MAKE SURE TO WEAR COMFORTABLE CLOTHES!

LET'S SEE, WE'LL NEED SHOVELS ...

BOARD: TREASURE HUNT OPERATION

ALSO, LUNCHES. MIKURU— THAT'S YOUR JOB!

WE'LL ASSEMBLE TOMORROW MORNING AT THE USUAL STATION!

WE'LL NEED A COMPASS IN CASE ANYTHING GOES WRONG...

A LANTERN, A MAP... WHAT ABOUT SIGNAL FLARES?

WHY DID I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER SUDDENLY?

JUST BECAUSE HARUHI WAS BACK TO NORMAL...

IS THIS ASAHINA-SAN?
I GOT MORE LETTERS TODAY.
鶴屋
HELLO, KYON-KUN?
ANYWAY, IT WAS ALWAYS BETTER WHEN PEOPLE CHEERED UP, WHAT-EVER THE REASON.
NAME PLATE: TSURUYA
OH, ALL RIGHT.
I THINK I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN...
Since things are gonna get busy tomor-row...
...I'll be heading over.
I want to talk about them, so...
YOU WERE ACTING A LITTLE WEIRD, I THOUGHT ...
I TOLD YOU WE DID ANOTHER CITY PATROL ON SATURDAY, DIDN'T I?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

TSURUYA-SAN WAS AMAZINGLY GOOD AT NOT GIVING ANYTHING ABOUT ASAHINA-SAN AWAY.

ACTING WEIRD ON PURPOSE SOUNDED TIRING.

THANKS AGAIN FOR THE FAVOR.

HOW LONG'S POOR MICHIRU GONNA BE COOPED UP IN HERE, ANYWAY?

I THOUGHT YOU'D SHOW UP!

A FEW MORE DAYS, PROB-ABLY.

I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE.

SHE CAN STAY AS LONG AS SHE WANTS, REALLY!

KYA (SQUEAL)

SHE'S ALWAYS WONDER-ING HOW MUCH SHE SHOULD SAY— IT'S SO CUTE!

SHE LOOKS SO FRESH IN THAT KIMONO JACKET!

HEY, THERE.

OH YES, PLEASE. THANKS!

IS TEA OKAY?

OH, KYON-KUN...

COULD ASAHINA-SAN AND I SPEAK IN PRIVATE?

I'VE GOT NOTHING TO HIDE.

SHE DIDN'T NEED TO BE SO ENTHU-SIASTIC ABOUT IT...

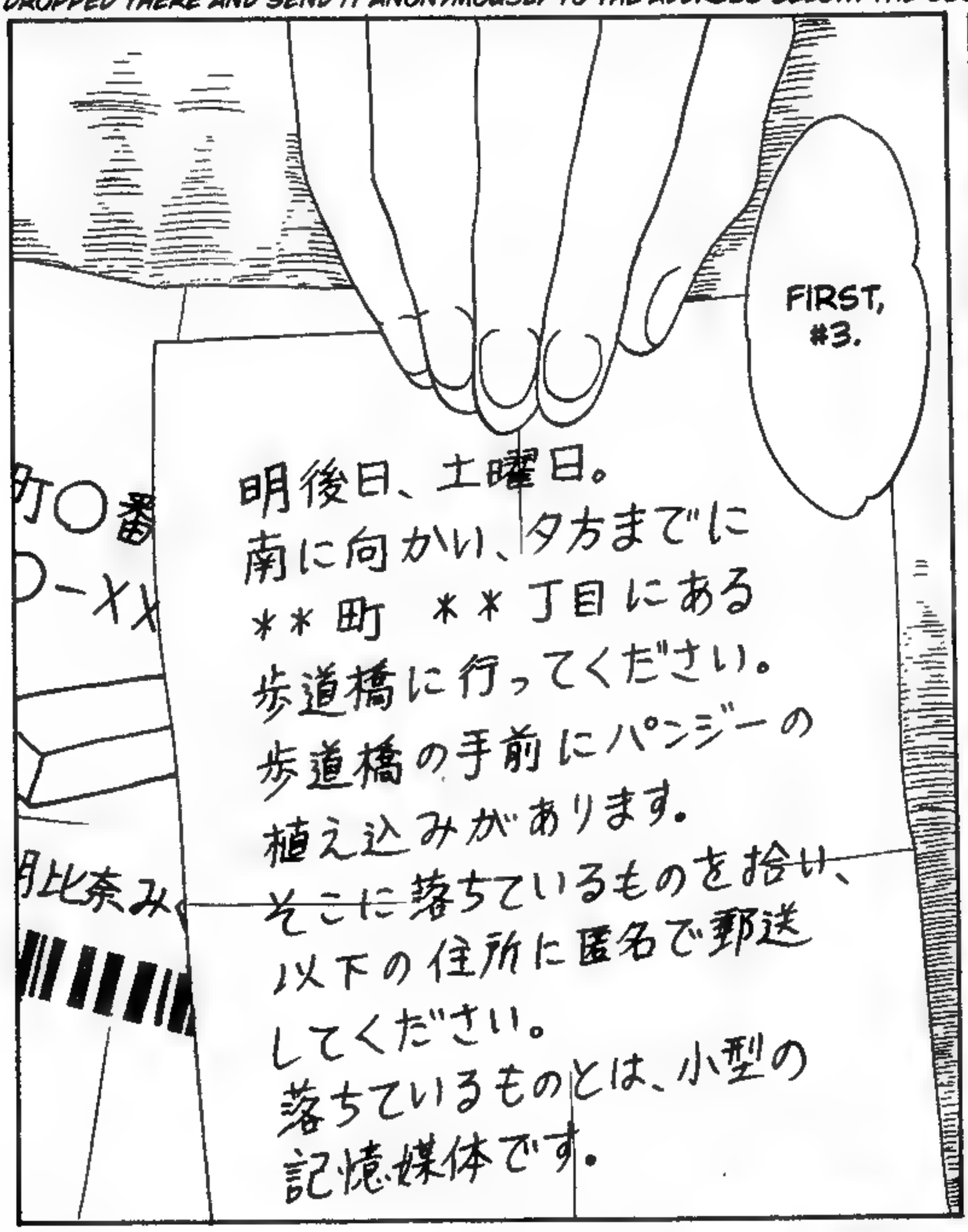
HAVE FUN...

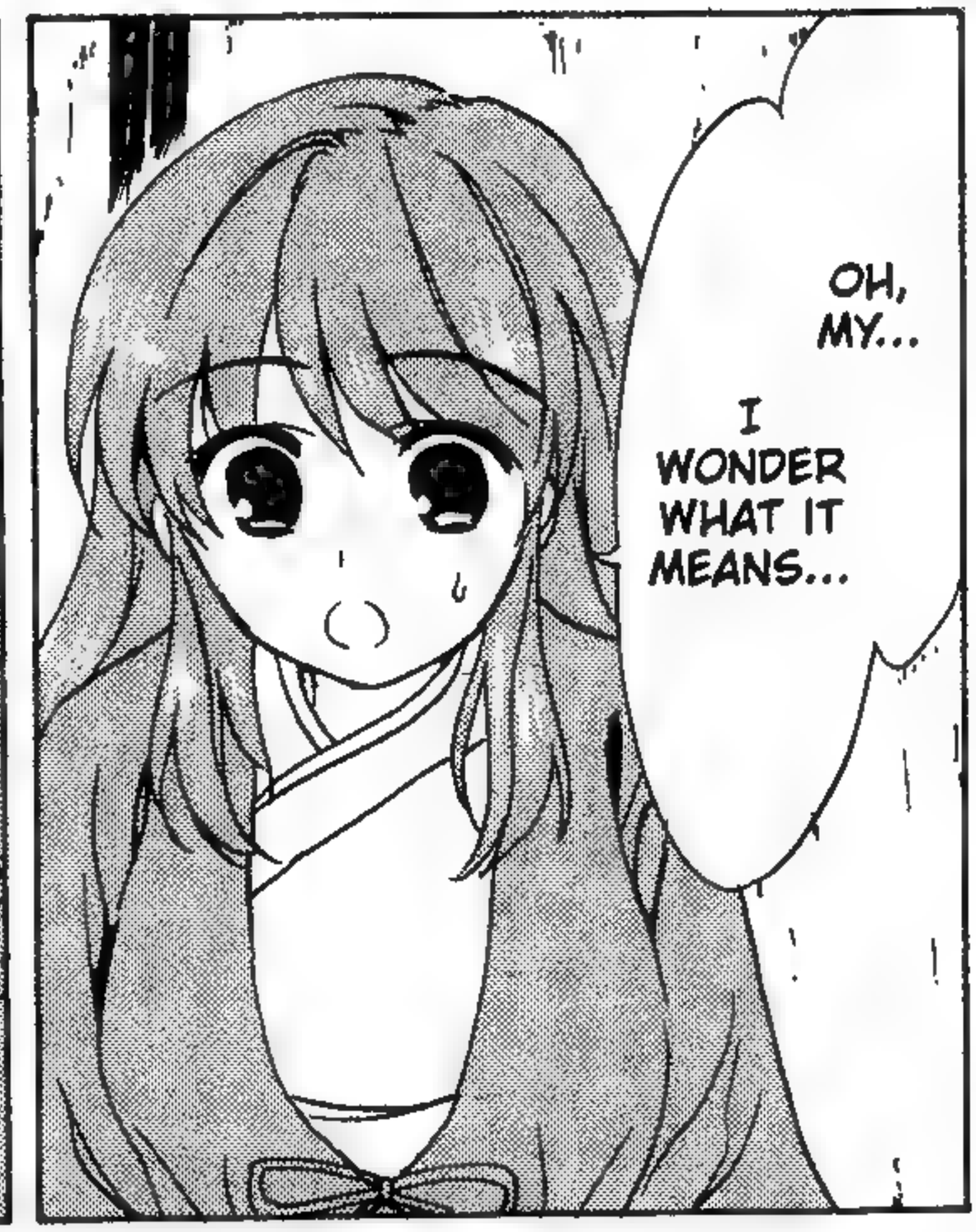
I'LL JUST GET CHANGED, THEN...

I GUESS SO.

JUST THE TWO OF YOU? IN THIS ROOM?

NOTE: SATURDAY, THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW: GO SOUTH TO THE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE IN [XXXX] COUNTY, [XXXX] WARD BY DUSK. THERE, IN FRONT OF THE BRIDGE, YOU WILL SEE SOME PANSIES. PICK UP THE OBJECT THAT'S BEEN DROPPED THERE AND SEND IT ANONYMOUSLY TO THE ADDRESS BELOW. THE OBJECT IS A PORTABLE STORAGE DEVICE.





IN THE ROW OF SAKURA TREES THAT LINE THE RIVER, THERE IS A BENCH THAT YOU AND ASAHINA SHOULD KNOW WELL.

川沿いの桜並木、
あなたと朝比奈みくるが よく
知っているベンチがありますね。
日曜日。
午前十時四十五分までに
そこに行き、午前十時五十分
までに川に亀を投げ込んで
ください。
亀の種類はお任せします。
小さいもののほうがいいでしょう。

ON SUNDAY, GO THERE BY 10:45 AM, AND BY 10:50 AM, THROW A TURTLE INTO THE RIVER. ANY SPECIES IS FINE. A SMALLER TURTLE WILL BE MORE CONVENIENT.

よろしくね。

OH...

TURTLE: HI, THERE! / RABBIT: WAIT!!

NOW HERE'S #4.

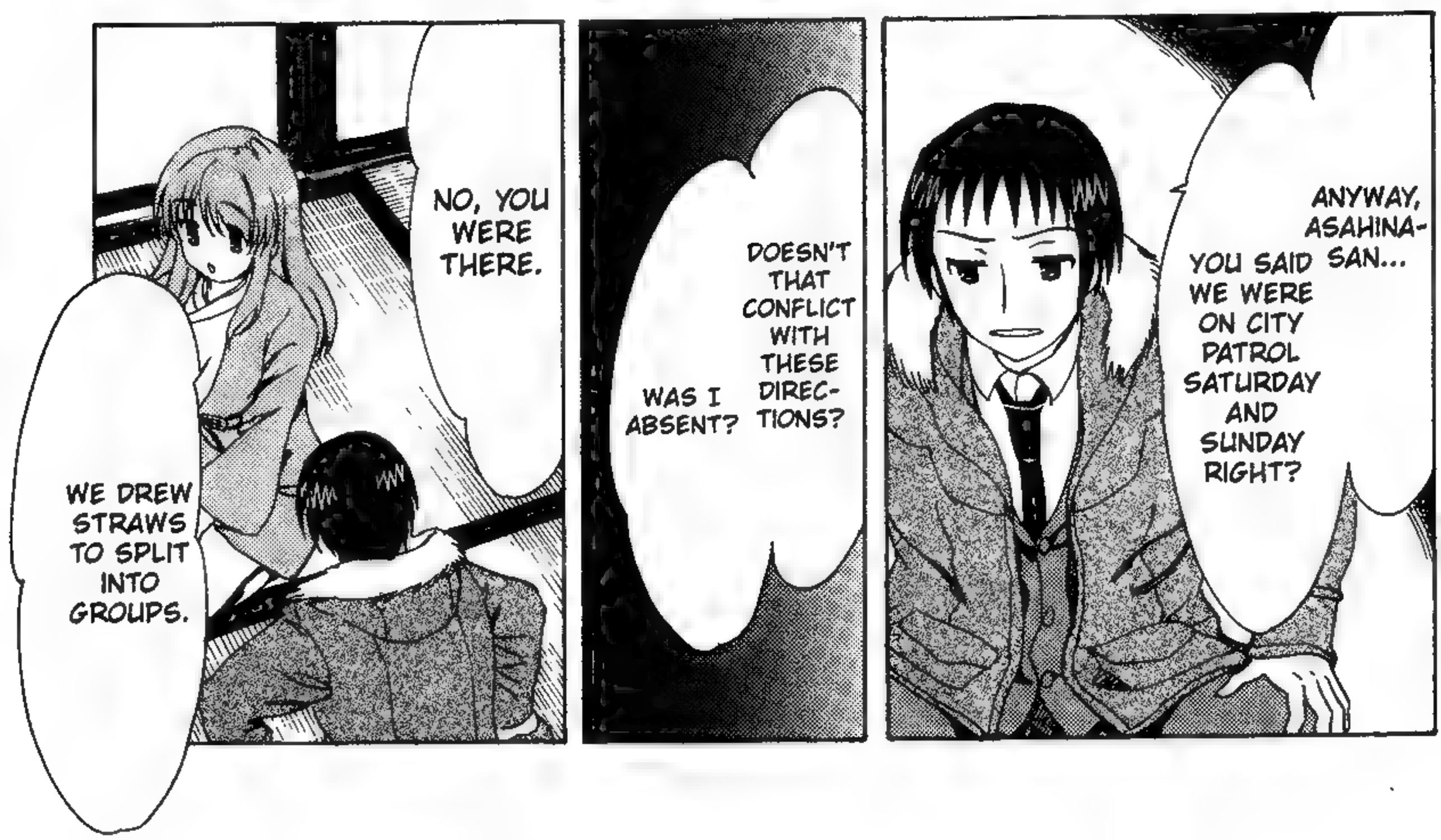
AND THERE BEING TWO OF THEM IS EVEN MORE MEANING-LESS.

THAT'S RIGHT— OTHERWISE, HER BEING HERE IS MEANING-LESS.

AND IT'S PROBABLY THE LAST ONE...

IT SEEMS TO BE MEANT FOR ME ALONE.

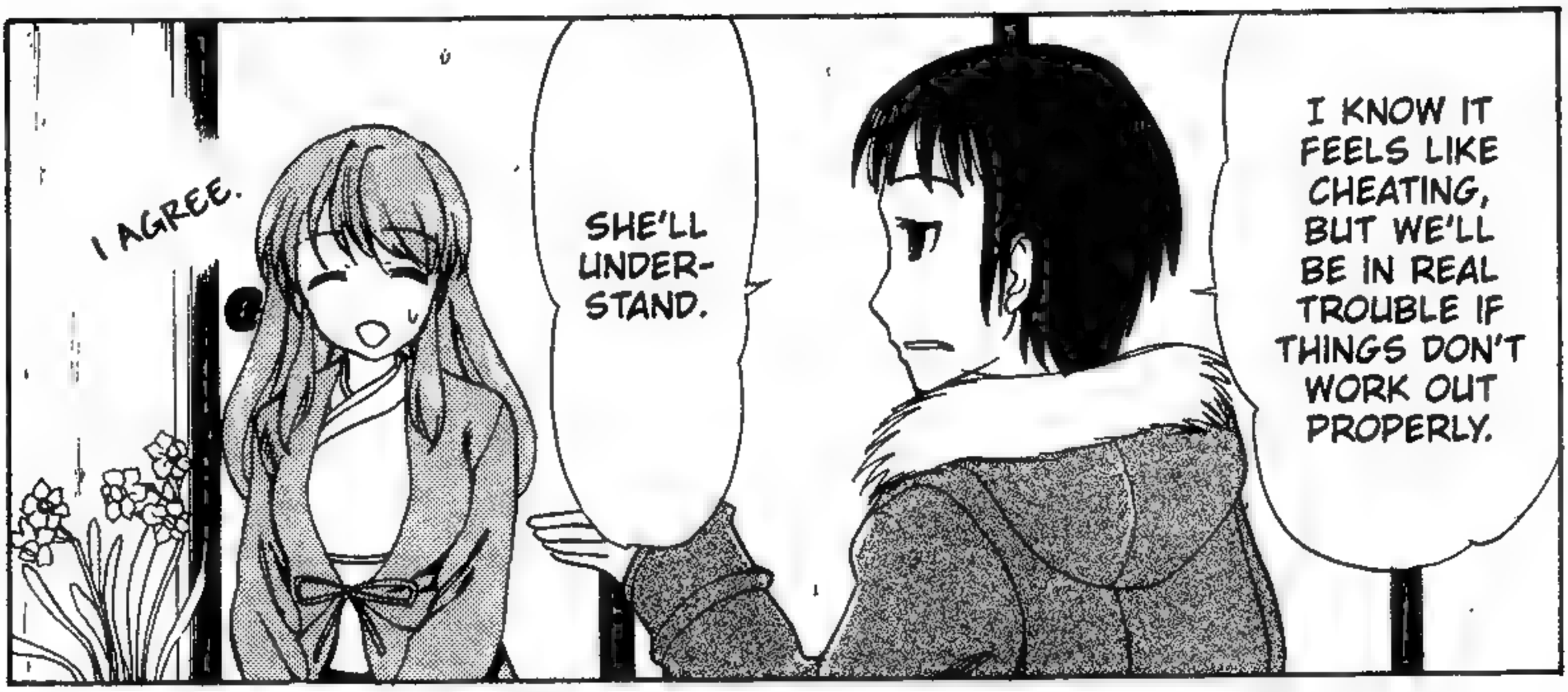
I'LL SKIP SHOWING HER #6.



SUNDAY MORNING WAS THE SAME...
WAIT ...
...AND THE AFTER-NOON WAS LIKE THIS.
KYU (SQUEAK)
ON SATURDAY MORNING, IT WAS SPLIT UP LIKE THIS...
UPPER: MIKURU, HARUHI, KOIZUMI / LOWER: NAGATO, KYON
DURING THOSE TIMES WHEN I'LL BE FOLLOWING THE DIRECTIONS ...
...I'M ALWAYS PAIRED UP WITH NAGATO.
DID YOU NOTICE? WE'RE PROBABLY THINKING THE SAME THING.
OR MAYBE SHE HELPS IF WE ASK HER TO...
...AND THIS IS THE RESULT OF THAT.
I WONDER IF NAGATO KNOWS OUR CIRCUM-STANCES.
I DON'T KNOW...

I'LL ASK HER TO HELP.
ALL RIGHT, I UNDER-STAND.

I WON-DER ...
...BUT IT'LL BE BAD IF IT DOESN'T HAPPEN LIKE I REMEMBER IT, RIGHT?


I AGREE.
SHE'LL UNDER-STAND.
I KNOW IT FEELS LIKE CHEATING, BUT WE'LL BE IN REAL TROUBLE IF THINGS DON'T WORK OUT PROPERLY.

"OFF" HOW?
A LITTLE OFF, YOU SAY?

YOU MUST HAVE ASKED NAGATO TO FIX THE LOTTERY.
YOU SEEMED A LITTLE OFF DURING THE PATROL, SO THAT MUST HAVE BEEN IT.

ON SUNDAY, WHEN I WAS AT THE BOOK-STORE... AROUND 11 A.M.?
BUT... OH, RIGHT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.

I'M SORRY. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PUT IT.
UM, IT WAS JUST A FEELING I GOT.

AND THAT IT WASN'T A GOOD JOKE AT ALL.
THAT THERE WAS A WEIRD CALL.
YES, THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID.

SUZUMIYA-SAN GOT A PRANK CALL FROM YOU ON HER PHONE.

AFTER I THREW THE TURTLE INTO THE RIVER, APPARENTLY I HAD TO CALL UP HARUHI AND TELL HER A BAD JOKE.
SO NOW I HAD ANOTHER MYSTE-RIOUS PRE-DICTION TO FULFILL.

NYA HA HA!
THANK YOU! I REALLY APPRECIATE IT!
AND A TURTLE, HUH...?
OH WELL, GUESS I'LL BUY ONE.
GEEZ, PLANS ARE REALLY PILING UP.
WELL, WELL, WELL, YOU TWO CERTAINLY TOOK YOUR TIME!
ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WEIRD?
NO!!
'COURSE
WERE YOU PEEPING IN ON US?
GOOD THING I DIDN'T...
HECK NO!

JIRIRIRIRI (RRRRING)

IT'S MORNING!

KITTY SCARF!

LOOK, LOOK!

YEAH.

ARE YOU GONNA HAVE BREAK-FAST?

YOU JERK!

THAT'S RIGHT, TIME TO FACE FOR-WARD.

KUCK'S

I SHOULD JUST BE GLAD IT'S NOT RAINING.

HEY! STOP IGNORING ME!

I WISH WE COULD'VE DONE THIS ON A WARMER DAY, BUT HARUHI DIDN'T CARE.

BASIC

NATURAL

CASUAL

WELL... WE'RE CHANGING UP AND HEADING OUT!

RIGHT ...

AND ONE GUY WHO'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS.

BURORO (VROOM)

THIS WASN'T BAD AT ALL.

OH, BUT DON'T EXPECT THEM TO BE VERY FANCY.

I MADE LUNCHES FOR EVERY-ONE.

THE IDEA OF ME SENDING THIS GIRL BACK IN TIME.

THERE'S ONE THING I CAN'T WRAP MY HEAD AROUND.

CAN'T WAIT TO FIND OUT!

I HOPE I DID A GOOD JOB WITH THEM.

BAAN (BAM)

WE'RE GOING AFTER TREASURE!

WE'RE NOT OUT HERE TO PLAY AROUND!

RIGHT, RIGHT...

HEY, KYON! LUNCHES ARE FINE...

...BUT DON'T FORGET TODAY'S GOAL!

WE WERE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF MT. TSURUYA (?) FROM THE SIDE WE'D VISITED THE DAY BEFORE LAST.
SOON WE FOUND OURSELVES SO SURROUNDED BY NATURE THAT THE BUSY TRAIN STATION SEEMED LIKE A DREAM.

WE RATTLED AROUND THE BUS FOR ABOUT HALF AN HOUR.

HURRY UP AND WALK!
IT WOULD BE EASIER TO REACH THE SUMMIT FROM THIS SIDE.
IT SEEMED THE OTHER SIDE WAS THE "BACK" OF THE MOUNTAIN.

HARUHI'S GOAL WAS ALWAYS THE TOP.

THAT'S THE MOST OBVIOUS SPOT TO BURY SOME-THING!
FIRST WE'LL HEAD TO THE PEAK!

WHY THE LONG FACE?

HE ALSO KNEW THERE WAS ANOTHER ASAHINA IN THIS TIME PERIOD.
I WASN'T GOING TO SAY ANY-THING.

YOU LOOK AS THOUGH YOU BELIEVE THAT EVERYTHING WE'RE DOING IS A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME.

HMMM.
IT WASN'T MUCH OF A MOUNTAIN, SO THERE WASN'T A LOT OF ROOM AT THE PEAK.

THE HALLUCINATION THAT I'D BEEN CAST INTO A GULAG BECAME MORE AND MORE VIVID.
STOP COM-PLAINING AND DIG!
AS WE DUG HERE AND THERE, THE AREA FILLED UP WITH HOLES.

HOW DO YOU KNOW WE WON'T?
WE'RE NOT GONNA FIND ANYTHING JUST DIGGING RANDOM HOLES.
THE DAY'S GONNA COME WHEN YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID THIS.
THAT'S HOW THE WORLD WORKS.

YEAH... BUT STILL.

I TRUST TSURUYA-SAN'S ANCESTOR!

IT SAYS IT'S BURIED HERE, SO IT'S GOTTA BE!

(WHAP?)

I'LL GO LOOK FOR A MORE DIGGABLE SPOT.

BUT IT MIGHT NOT BE ON THE PEAK.

SHE MAKES IT SOUNDS LIKE OLD FUSAUEMON TSURUYA WAS A FRIEND OF HERS.

WATCH YOUR STEP!

(DASH)

I'M OFF!

KEEP DIG-GING UNTIL I GET BACK!

IF MY SENSE OF DIRECTION WAS RIGHT, THAT DIRECTION WAS WHERE THE GOURD-SHAPED ROCK WAS.

ANYWAY, THIS WAS GOING WELL.

NICE WEATHER...

IT WOULDVE BEEN NICER IN THE SPRINGTIME...

RIGHT NOW I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S AHEAD, BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE AN OLDER STUDENT AT ALL...

BECAUSE THEN I COULD BE IN THE SAME YEAR AS YOU ALL.

SPRING...

I'LL BE A THIRD-YEAR STUDENT BY THEN...

BUT IT'D BE NICE TO JUST DO MY SECOND YEAR OVER AGAIN.

I'LL BE HAPPY IF YOU JUST KEEP BEING THE SOS BRIGADE'S SPECIAL MAID.

HARUHI WAS THE ONE WHO FORCED YOU INTO THE CLUB.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT ALL.

ALL RIGHT ...

WAAA! (CHEER)

LET'S DIG IN!

HERE'S TO HOPING FOR A SUCCESSFUL TREASURE HUNT!

...BUT IT SURE BEAT THE HECK OUT OF AGONIZING OVER THE WEIRD QUESTIONS THAT DOGGED ME.

AS USUAL, I DIDN'T REALLY UNDER-STAND WHAT HARUHI WAS UP TO...

ENJOYING LUNCH IN THE MOUNTAINS WITH ALL FIVE OF US WAS ACTUALLY VERY NICE.

THAT'S NOT MUCH OF A DREAM.
I'M GONNA CASH IT IN AND BUY A NEW GAME SYSTEM WITH ALL THE GAMES I'VE WANTED TO PLAY, THEN GO TO THE USED BOOKSTORE AND BUY BACK ALL THE MANGA MY MOM MADE ME SELL OFF...

HEY, KYON ...
...IF WE DO FIND TREASURE, WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO WITH YOUR SHARE?

I DON'T THINK I'D SELL IT OFF EVEN IF I COULD, THOUGH!
YOU GOTTA DREAM BIGGER.

DON'T YOU THINK LEAVING A TREASURE MAP FOR YOUR OWN DESCENDANTS WOULD BE MORE FUN THAN PLAIN OLD MONEY?
I'D LOCK IT UP FOR A WHILE, THEN BURY IT AGAIN.
UNIVERSAL

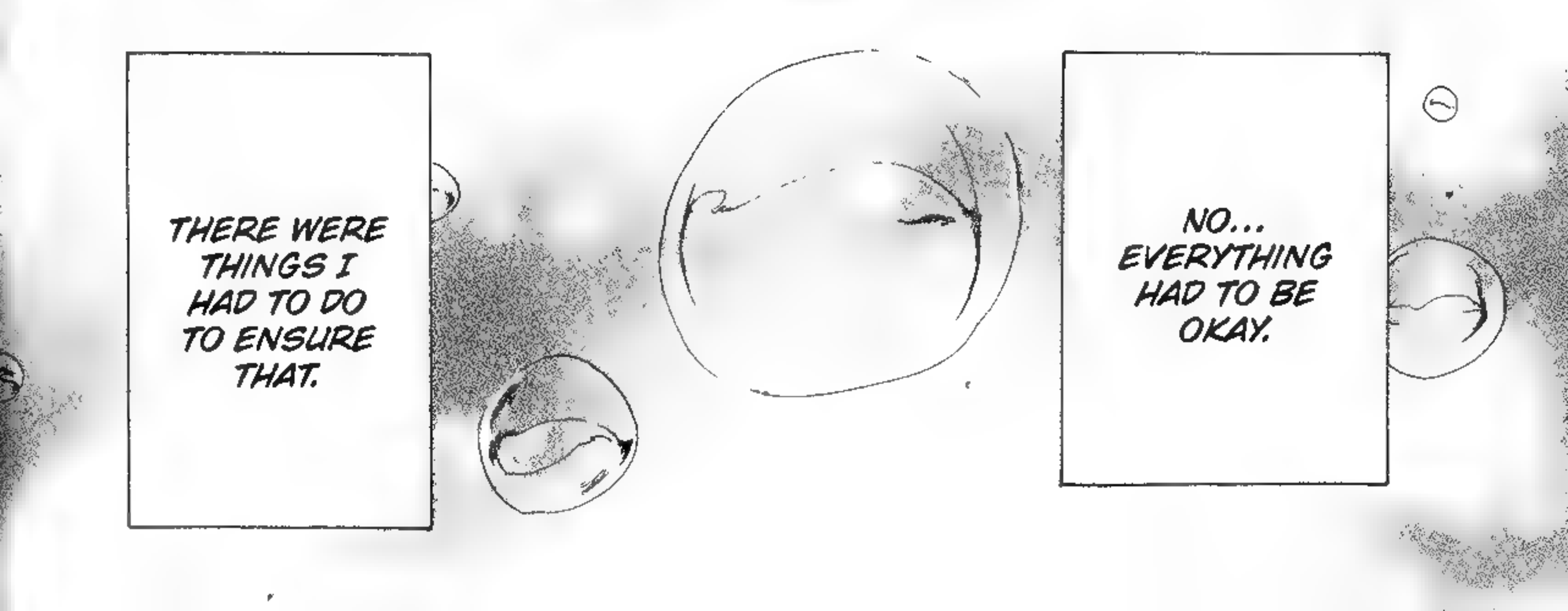
BUT ANYWAY
I JUST HOPE WE FIND SOME! TREASURE, I MEAN.
?
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT–
W-WAIT, NO–UH–
I HOPE WE FIND SOME-THING YOU CAN'T TRADE FOR MONEY.
RIGHT, MIKURU-CHAN?

OH, WE'LL FIND SOME, ALL RIGHT.
I KNOW THESE THINGS.
...ALL THE TROUBLES IN MY HEAD DIS-APPEARED.
FOR A BRIEF MOMENT ...

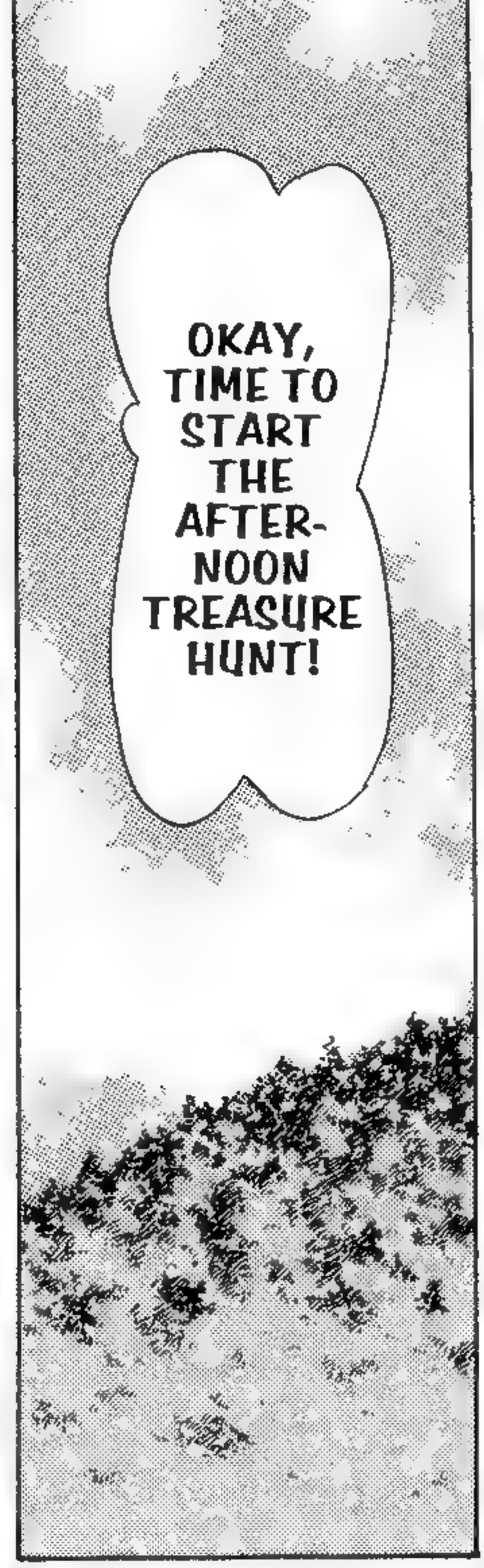
I WAS JUST ENJOYING HAVING A FUN PICNIC LUNCH WITH EVERYBODY.

DESPITE THE UNSEASONAL HIKE AND THE POINTLESS TREASURE HUNT...

...FOR A LITTLE WHILE, I FELT LIKE EVERYTHING WAS GOING TO BE OKAY.



THIS IS THE PLACE.
IT'S WEIRDLY FLAT, RIGHT?


OKAY, TIME TO START THE AFTER-NOON TREASURE HUNT!

ごろん
GORON (SHOVE)

ゴクッ…
GOKU (GULP)

WAIT, THAT ROCK …

THIS IS ABOUT THE ONLY PLACE LEFT.
RIGHT, SO, ANYWAY …
START DIGGING OVER THERE.

RIGHT OVER THERE ...
NAGA-TO?
OH YEAH, THERE'S THE SPOT WHERE THE ROCK ORIGINALLY SAT.
IT'S STILL GOING TO LOOK UNNATURAL.
SHE'S SO DAMNED PER-CEPTIVE, AFTER ALL.
GEEZ, I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA HAVE A HEART ATTACK.
GA (WHACK)
HEY, KYON! QUIT SPACING OUT!
WHAT A RELIEF...
GO HELP KOIZUMI-KUN!
UNSUR-PRISINGLY, WE FOUND NOTHING.

GUESS WE'LL JUST WRAP THINGS UP!

OH WELL.

WE'RE JUST NOT FINDING ANY, ARE WE?

I THINK WE CAN GET DOWN OVER HERE.

THE SUN'S GETTING LOW.

LET'S HEAD HOME.

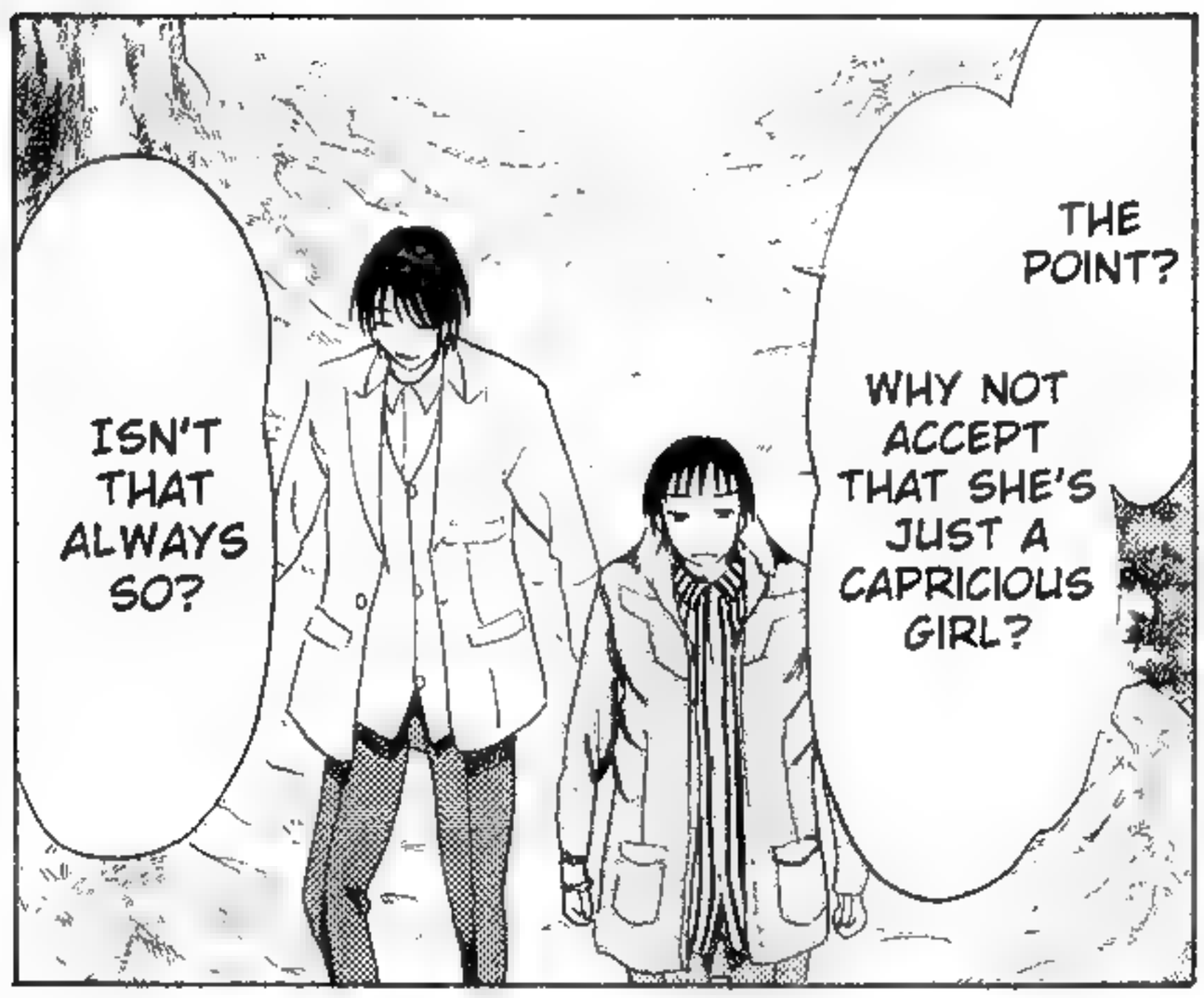
I'M RATHER TIRED MYSELF, AFTER ALL.

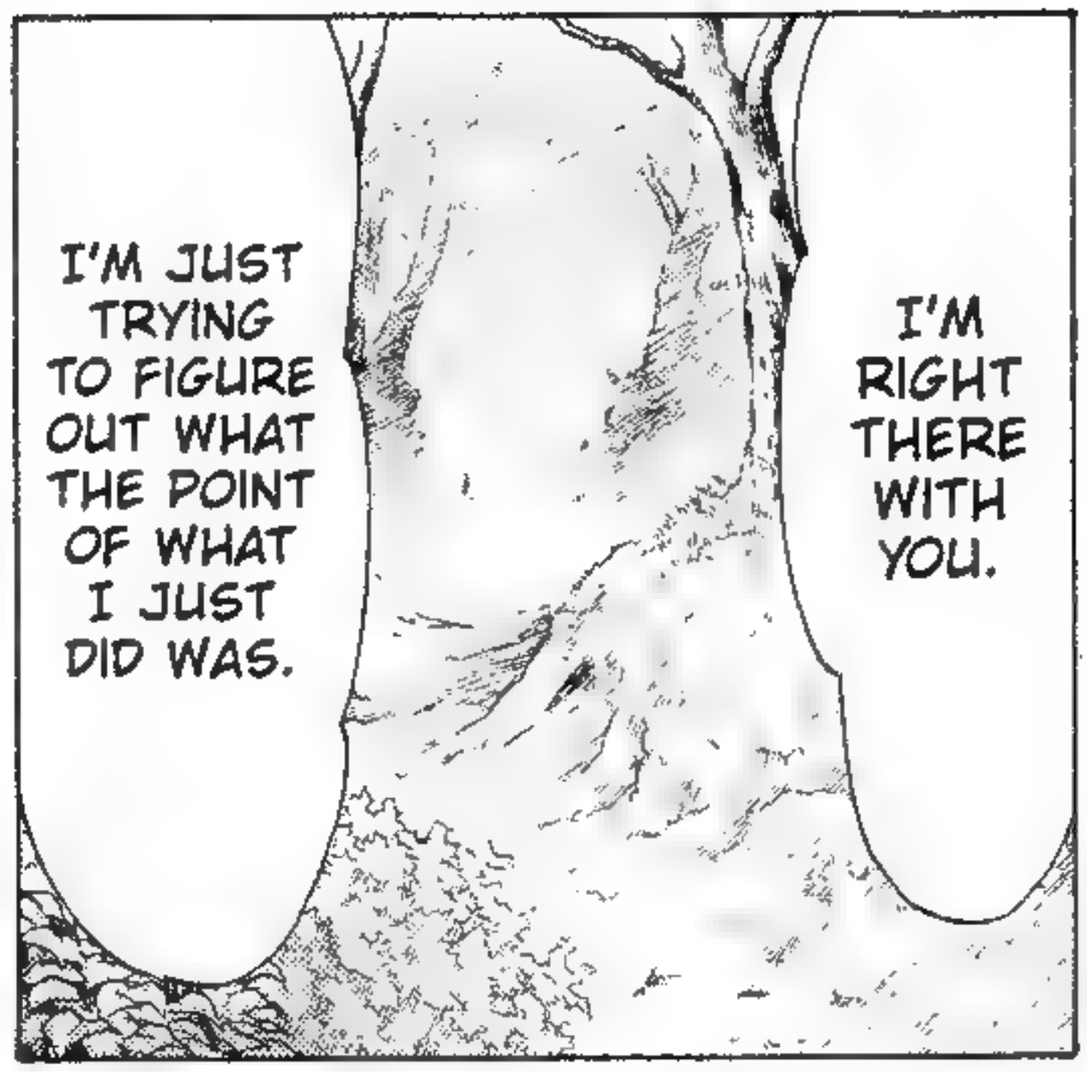
IT'S ALL RIGHT, ISN'T IT?

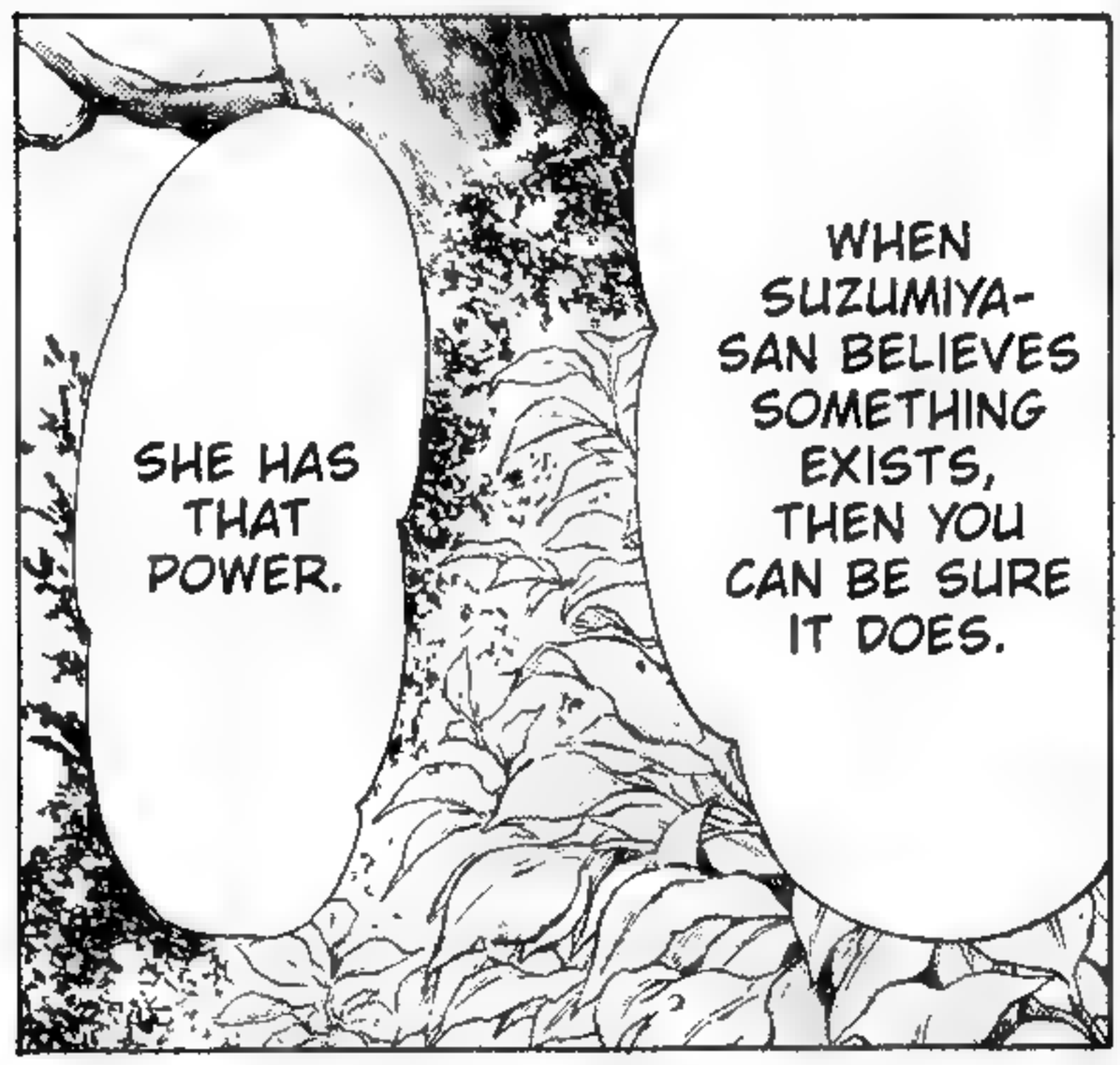
I SUGGEST WE VACATE QUICKLY.

SERI-OUSLY?

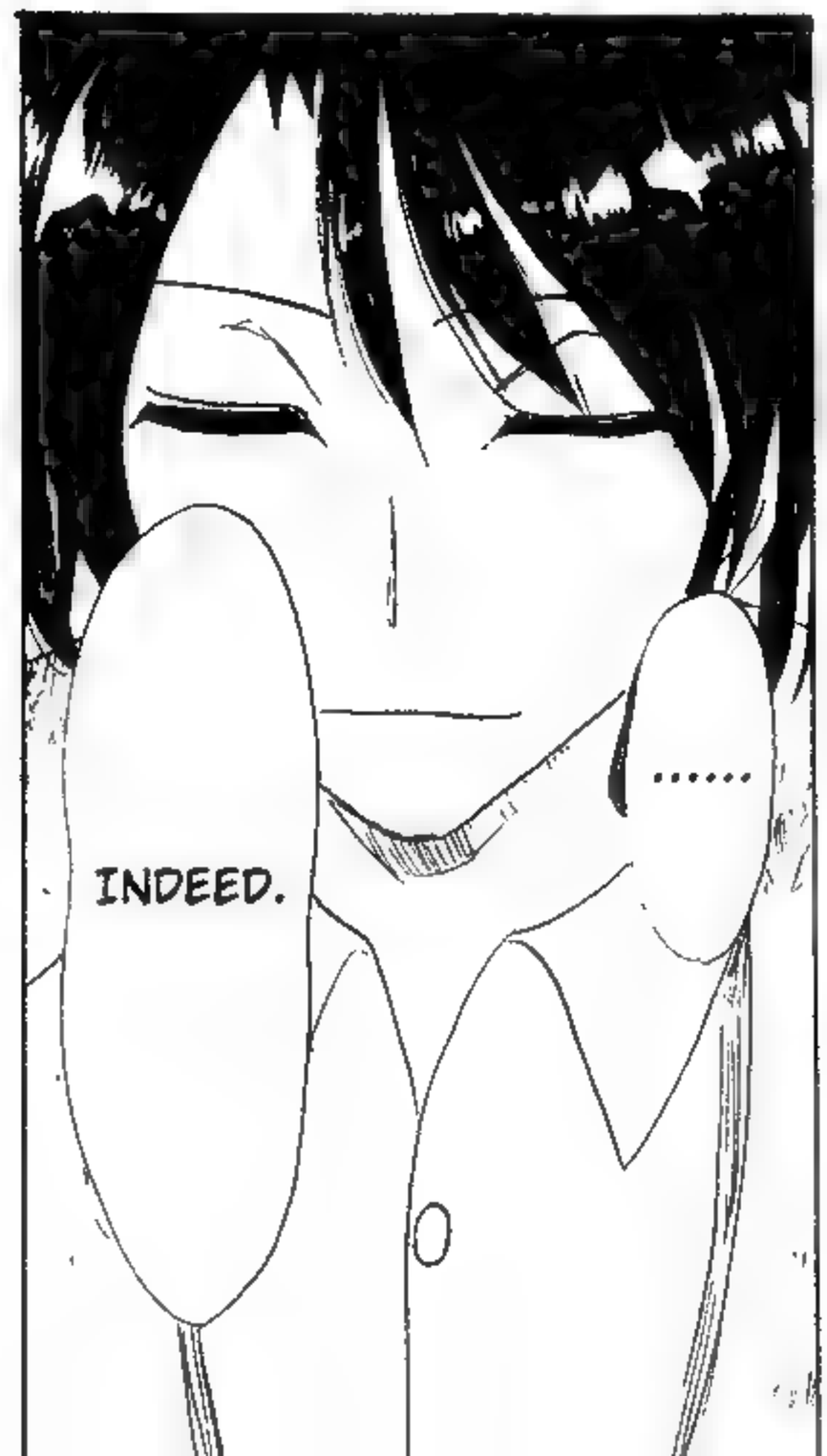
NO REGRETS AT ALL?


ISN'T THAT ALWAYS SO?
THE POINT?
WHY NOT ACCEPT THAT SHE'S JUST A CAPRICIOUS GIRL?


I'M JUST TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THE POINT OF WHAT I JUST DID WAS.
I'M RIGHT THERE WITH YOU.


SHE HAS THAT POWER.
WHEN SUZUMIYA-SAN BELIEVES SOMETHING EXISTS, THEN YOU CAN BE SURE IT DOES.

HOWEVER, IT DOES SEEM STRANGE THAT THERE TRULY WAS NO TREASURE.


INDEED.
.....

IT HAD TO BE A PRANK FROM OLD MAN FUSAUEMON.
I GUESS SHE DIDN'T TRULY BELIEVE IT HER-SELF.

SHE'S BEEN STABLE FOR SOME TIME.

OR PERHAPS SHE JUST GREW REST-LESS.

HM?

SHE COULD'VE JUST SAID SO...

WHO CAN FATHOM A MAIDEN'S HEART?

WE CAN CONCLUDE SHE JUST WANTED TO GO ON A PICNIC.

SHE DIDN'T TRULY WANT TO FIND ANCIENT TREASURE.

IF ANY-THING, IT'S BEEN ELEVATED.

HER MOOD HASN'T TAKEN A DOWNWARD TURN EVEN THE SLIGHTEST BIT.

EVEN THIS PAST WEEK?

WAIT, SHE'S BEEN STABLE?

THE INTRIGUES OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA VI : END

Translation Notes

Page 21
Beyond the Pale of Vengeance (*Onshuu No Kanata Ni*) by Kan Kikuchi is an early 20th-century Japanese novel based on the life of a 19th-century monk as he tries to make amends for the sins of his past. At one point, the protagonist digs a tunnel through a mountain by hand as penance for his misdeeds.

Page 135
Nankin tamasudare is a type of traditional Japanese street performance. The perfomer chants a poem while manipulating a loosely-woven screen made of sticks to resemble the object they are describing in each verse chant. While the poem has a number of variations based on the performer, each verse begins with "*asate, asate, sate wa nankin tamasudare*" ("Hurry, hurry, hurry, it's the Nankin Tamasudare").

Harish-ism

Our hearts go out to the victims of the Tohoku earthquake and its aftermath.

THE MELANCHOLY OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA

14

Original Story: Nagaru Tanigawa
Manga: Gaku Tsugano
Character Design: Noizi Ito

Translation: Paul Starr
Lettering: Alexis Eckerman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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